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# Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013

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... not applicable
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$0^s$ value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
$^p$ preliminary
$^r$ revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
$^E$ use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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# Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013: highlights

## Section 1
## Overview of family violence

- In 2013, police reported that there were 87,820 victims of family violence in Canada. This represents a rate of 252.9 victims of family violence for every 100,000 individuals in the population. In comparison, the rate of victimization for violent crimes that were not family-related was 712.8 per 100,000 population.
- Spousal violence was the most common form of family violence in 2013, with nearly half (48%) of family violence occurring at the hands of a current or former spouse (married or common law).
- Following spousal violence, victimization by a parent was the next most common form of police-reported family violence, representing 17% of family violence victims.
- In 2013, more than two-thirds (68%) of all family violence victims were female.
- The risk of family violence varies with age and overall, tends to be lowest for seniors, followed by young children (9 years and under), and highest for adults in their 30s. While this pattern was generally similar for male and female victims, female rates of family violence peaked at age 30 to 34, whereas for males, rates were highest from age 15 to 19.
- Common assault was the most frequent form of family violence reported to police, experienced by over half (58%) of victims, followed by intimidation offences (17%), such as criminal harassment, indecent telephone calls or uttering threats.
- More than half (55%) of family violence victims suffered no physical injury. For those that sustained injuries, the vast majority of these injuries were minor, calling for no professional medical treatment or first aid only. When injuries were sustained, they were much more likely the result of the use of physical force (84%) against the victim, rather than the use of a weapon (16%).
- Charges were laid more often in police-reported family violence incidents (56%) than in violent incidents that were not family-related (46%).
- Trend data indicate that police-reported incidents of family violence have decreased in recent years. From 2009 to 2013, rates for the most prevalent form of police-reported family violence, physical assault, dropped 14%, spousal victimization declined 17% and incidents involving other family members fell 10%.
- Rates of homicides committed by family members continue to fall for both male and female victims. Family-related physical and sexual assaults have also declined modestly in recent years.

## Section 2
## Intimate partner violence

- In 2013, there were more than 90,300 victims of police-reported violence by an intimate partner (including spousal and dating partners) accounting for over one quarter of all police-reported victims of violent offences.
- Dating violence accounted for 53% of police-reported incidents of intimate partner violence, while spousal violence represented 47%.
- As with violent crime in general, adults in their twenties and thirties experienced the greatest risk of violent victimization by an intimate partner. In particular, rates of intimate partner violence were highest among 20- to 24-year olds.
- Similar to previous years, common assault (level 1) was the most frequent type of police-reported intimate partner violence. Major assault (levels 2 and 3), uttering threats and criminal harassment were the next most frequent offences.
- Charges were laid or recommended in the majority (71%) of intimate partner violence incidents reported to police.
- Rates of intimate partner homicide have remained stable in recent years. In 2013, the rate of homicides committed against a female intimate partner stood at 3.74 per million population. The rate of intimate partner homicide was 4.5 times higher for female victims than for male victims.
- Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of the most prevalent form of police-reported intimate partner violence, common assault (level 1), fell 11%.

## Section 3
## Family violence against children and youth

- According to police-reported data for 2013, about 16,700 children and youth, or 243.5 for every 100,000 Canadians under the age of 18, were the victims of family-related violence. This represented over one-quarter (29%) of all children and youth who were the victims of a violent crime.
- Physical assault was the most common type of police-reported family violence against children and youth. Sexual offences were the second most common type of police-reported family violence against children and youth.
- Parents (60%) were the family members most often accused of violence against children and youth, especially in incidents involving children under the age of four.

- The rate of police-reported family violence committed against children and youth tends to increase with age of the victim. However, when younger children (i.e., under the age of four) were victimized, they were more likely to be victimized by a family member.
- Overall, homicides against children and youth are relatively rare. When they do occur, unlike with other types of family violence, familial homicides were more common among younger age groups, with children under the age of one at greatest risk.
- Girls were more likely than boys to be victims of police-reported family violence, especially sexual assault. In 2013, the overall rate of police-reported family violence victimization for girls was 1.5 times higher (298.2 per 100,000) than the rate for boys (191.5 per 100,000); and the rate of sexual victimization by a family member was four times higher for girls (125.0 per 100,000) compared to boys (30.2 per 100,000).
- Physical injuries were reported for about 4 in 10 victims of family violence against children and youth; the vast majority of these were minor, requiring no medical treatment or requiring first aid.
- Charges were laid in less than half (45%) of family violence incidents against children and youth, compared to 59% of police-reported family violence involving adult victims aged 18 years and over.

## Section 4
## Family violence against seniors

- Seniors represented a relatively small proportion of all family violence victims, about 3%, and had lower rates of family violence than any other age group.
- Rates of police-reported family violence are generally highest among younger seniors and gradually decline with age.
- In 2013, the police-reported rate of family violence for senior women (62.7 per 100,000) was higher (+26%) than the rate for senior men (49.7 per 100,000). Nevertheless, the difference between female and male rates of family violence among seniors is notably smaller than the gap observed between the sexes for younger victims.
- Similar to previous years, family members made up one-third of those accused in police-reported incidents of violent crime against seniors (aged 65 and over) in 2013, with just over 2,900 seniors (56.8 victims per 100,000 seniors) victimized by a family member that year. In total, nearly 8,900 (173.9 victims per 100,000 seniors) of persons aged 65 and over were the victims of a violent crime in Canada in 2013.
- Senior victims of family violence were most likely to be victimized by their own adult children. About 4 in 10 senior victims of police-reported family violence indicated that the accused was their grown child; spouses (28%) were the second most likely family members to be identified as perpetrators of family violence against seniors.
- Common assault accounted for more than half (55%) of violence committed against seniors by family members. Weapons were involved in fewer than one in six (15%) family violence incidents against senior victims. Most incidents (85%) involved the use of physical force or threats.
- A majority (61%) of senior victims of family violence did not sustain physical injuries. Among those who were injured, most sustained minor injuries requiring little or no medical attention (e.g., some first aid).
- Family violence against seniors that escalates to homicide continues to be rare. In 2013, the overall rate of family-related homicides was 3.2 for every 1 million persons aged 65 and over.

# Section 1: Overview of family violence

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Over an individual's lifetime, significant life-events often centre around the family unit: for example, celebrations such as marriages, the birth of children, graduations and important holidays; as well as more difficult occasions, such as the end of a union or death of a loved one. While many familial experiences can have positive impacts on the individual, other experiences, such as family violence, can have serious negative short- and long-term consequences both for the victim as well as family members who may have been exposed to the violence (Department of Justice Canada n.d.a.; World Health Organization 2002; Holt et al. 2008; Widom, Czaja and Dutton 2008; Violence Prevention Alliance, 2012).

For victims of family violence, many aspects of their lives can be affected by the violence they experience. For adults, spousal violence has been linked to a heightened risk of chronic illness later in life, higher stress levels, an increased dependence on alcohol or drugs, increased absenteeism and risk of job loss and economic vulnerability (Family Violence Initiative 2010; Violence Prevention Alliance, 2012). For children, being the victim of family violence or exposure to such violence can have a negative association with their development and health, as well as their academic performance and social integration (Jaffe et al. 2006; Holt et al., 2008; Wathen 2012). Over the longer term, experiencing family violence during childhood can increase the risk of delinquent behaviour in later years and has been shown to be linked to problems related to drug and alcohol consumption and mental health issues in adolescence and adulthood (Fergusson et al. 2008; National Clearinghouse on Family Violence 2009; Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes 2009; Wathen 2012).

Beyond the physical and emotional consequences for the individuals directly affected, family violence also has broader societal implications including impacts on the medical, social and criminal justice systems (Department of Justice Canada n.d.a.; Family Violence Initiative 2010; Violence Prevention Alliance, 2012). Acts of family violence are considered to be serious crimes, and family violence is recognised as an important public health issue by federal and provincial governments, as well as other public and community service organisations (Department of Justice Canada n.d.a.; Family Violence Initiative 2010).

Since 1988, the Government of Canada's main strategy for family violence prevention, intervention and elimination has been the Family Violence Initiative. The Family Violence Initiative is a horizontal collaboration involving the efforts of 15 federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, with a mandate to promote public awareness of the risk factors associated with family violence; strengthen the capacity of social systems to prevent and respond to family violence; and to enhance data collection, research, analysis and evaluation efforts to better inform policies and programs aimed at family violence intervention and prevention.[1]

As part of this initiative, Statistics Canada has released annual statistics on family violence since 1998. By examining the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, this report helps inform family violence policy and program development.

## Defining family violence in Canada

While there is no universally accepted definition of family violence, the definition developed by the federal Family Violence Initiative describes family violence as : "...a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust" (Family Violence Initiative 2010, p. 1). These abusive behaviours include physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and financial victimization, as well as neglect. This definition of family violence, as with the majority of definitions in this area, encompasses two key elements: 1) the type of family relationship, and 2) the form of violence.

For the purposes of the present report, the term 'family' refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, co-habitation (in the case of common-law partners), foster care, or adoption. While previous studies have shown similarities between violence against dating partners and spousal violence,[2, 3] dating relationships are not, strictly speaking, included in the definition of 'family' for this report. However, violence in dating relationships is examined alongside spousal violence in the context of intimate partner violence in section 2.

With respect to the forms of family violence examined, the present report considers violent criminal offences that come to the attention of police, where the accused perpetrator is a family member. Therefore, the analysis of family violence in the present study is based on definitions that correspond to those found in the *Criminal Code*. The *Criminal Code* does not identify a specific family violence offence but intimate partner violence and abusive behaviours can be considered violent criminal incidents. Police-reported incidents of family violence typically involve criminal offences, such as assault, criminal harassment, sexual offences or homicide. Therefore, incidents of family violence are identified by examining the relationship between the accused person and the victim in incidents of violent crime.

## Measuring family violence in Canada

The primary Statistics Canada data sources for this report are the police-reported Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey. Every year, both the UCR Survey and the Homicide Survey collect data on all *Criminal Code* offences reported to, and substantiated by Canadian police services. These surveys provide information to measure trends in police-reported family violence at both the national and provincial/territorial levels, as well as information on the characteristics of victims, accused and incidents. This report presents data from the 2013 UCR and Homicide Surveys, including information on victims and accused. Data from previous years are also used for historical comparisons.

Because this report is based on police-substantiated incidents of family violence, the true extent of family violence may be underestimated, as not all crime, including cases of family violence, come to the attention of police. Findings from the most recent General Social Survey (GSS), for which data are currently available (2009),[4] indicate that fewer than three in ten (29%) incidents of violent victimization are reported to police (Perreault and Brennan 2010); the percentage of spousal violence[5] incidents reported is even smaller, at 22% (Brennan 2011). In addition, incidents that are not *Criminal Code* offences, such as emotional or psychological abuse, and non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud are not included in this report.

Although not used for the present study, the GSS on victimization is an additional key source of information for one type of family violence, spousal violence.[6] Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts the GSS on victimization, a sample survey of Canadians aged 15 and over. The GSS provides self-reported data on criminal victimization and also offers some information on violence in spousal relationships and children witnessing spousal violence. Victimization data from the GSS have the advantage of providing information on crimes that come to the attention of police, as well as crimes that may go unreported and thus, are not likely captured in official police statistics.

While the GSS measures the extent and nature of spousal violence by collecting information on physical and sexual violence, as defined by the *Criminal Code*, and incidents of emotional and financial abuse in spousal relationships, it does not capture information on other types of family violence (i.e., violence by a parent, child, sibling or extended family member). Moreover, the GSS does not gather information from certain segments of the population, such as children under the age of 15 and individuals living in institutions (e.g., long-term care facilities). Data from these groups, however, would be included in official police-reported statistics. Police-reported data sources (i.e., the UCR and Homicide Surveys) and the self-reported GSS yield different but complementary types of information on violent victimization, in particular, spousal violence.

This report presents an overview of family violence in Canada in 2013 and a profile of three forms of violence: intimate partner violence, family violence against children and youth, and family violence against seniors aged 65 years and older.

## Family violence in Canada: An overview

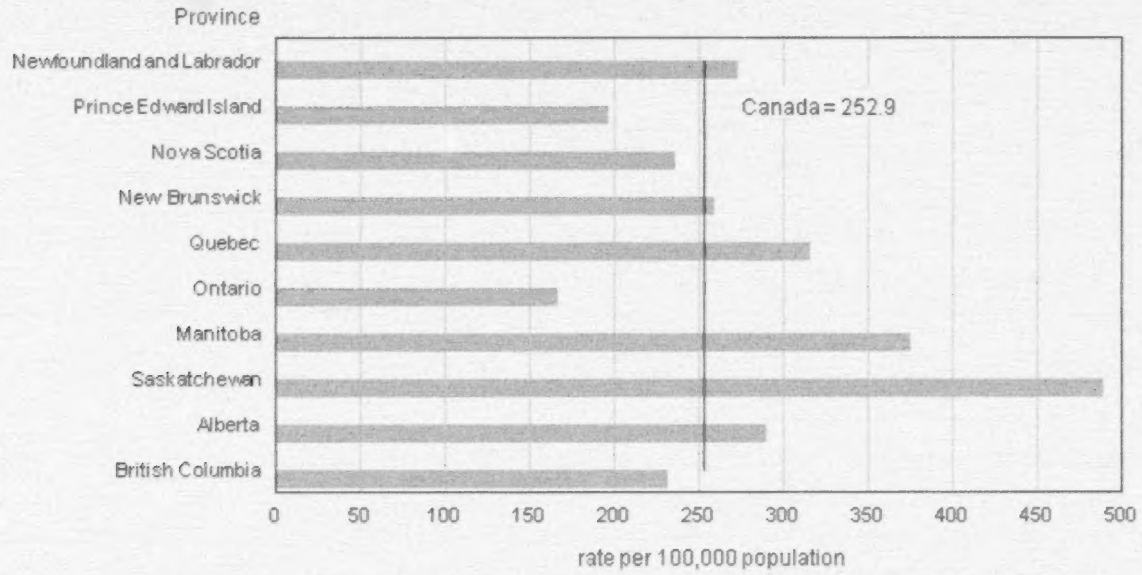
In 2013, 26% of violent crime victims were victimized by a family member, according to police-reported data (Table 1.1).[7] Overall, there were 87,820 victims of police-reported family violence in 2013, or 252.9 victims for every 100,000 individuals in the population. The rate for other forms of violent victimization that were not family-related was nearly 3 times higher (712.8 victims per 100,000 population) than the rate for family-related violence.

## Ontario and Prince Edward Island recorded the lowest rates of family violence among the provinces

Among the provinces, Ontario (166.9 per 100,000 population), Prince Edward Island (196.3), British Columbia (231.2) and Nova Scotia (235.4) recorded the lowest rates of police-reported family violence. In contrast, Saskatchewan (489.4 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (375.8) recorded the highest rates (Chart 1.1).

Mirroring trends for police-reported violent crime rates in general, rates of family violence tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. In 2013, the rates in the Northwest Territories and in Nunavut were 2,020.2 and 2,768.7 per 100,000 population respectively, while Yukon recorded a rate of 903.9 per 100,000 population. In comparison, the national rate of family violence stood at 252.9 per 100,000 population.

**Chart 1.1**
**Rate of police-reported family violence, by province, 2013**




**Note:** Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from the analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs)[8] the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA recorded the highest rate of police-reported family violence in 2013, followed by Saguenay, Québec, Montréal and Trois-Rivières. The lowest rates of family violence were reported by the Ontario CMAs of Ottawa, Guelph, St. Catharines–Niagara, and London, findings not unlike those from previous years (Table 1.2).

## Rates of assaults committed by family members declined in most provinces

Across the provinces and territories, the rates of police-reported physical[9] and sexual assaults[10] committed against a family member generally declined between 2012 and 2013 (Table 1.3).[11] Nationally, police-reported family-related physical assaults were down 6% and sexual assaults declined 9% over the previous year. These drops correspond with an overall decline in police-reported violent crime across Canada (-9%) from 2012 to 2013, during which time rates of violent offences decreased in every province and territory, with the exception of Yukon (+2%).

Rates of family-related physical assault declined in every province and territory, except Yukon, where they rose 20% between 2012 and 2013. The largest drop in police-reported physical assaults against family members occurred in Prince Edward Island, declining 31% in 2013 compared to the previous year.

With regard to sexual assaults committed by family members, annual rates can fluctuate considerably, given the small numbers of such offences recorded. That being said, year-over-year rates of police-reported family-related sexual assault dropped in every province, with the exception of Saskatchewan (+6%).

## More than one-third of family violence victims were victimized by a current spouse

Among victims of family violence in 2013, just under half (48%) were victimized by a current or former spouse. More specifically, 34% were victimized by a current spouse (married or common-law) and another 14% by a former spouse. For nearly two in ten victims of police-reported family violence, the accused was a parent (17%), while for about one in ten the accused was an extended family member (14%), sibling (11%) or his or her own child (10%).

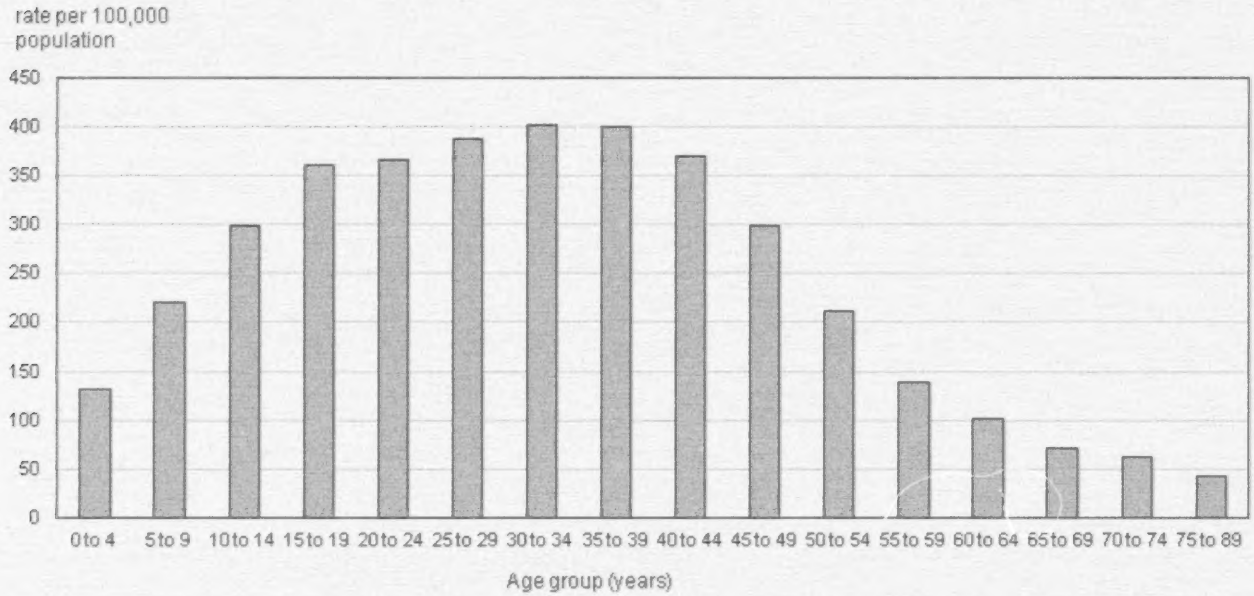
## A majority of family violence victims were female

The majority of police-reported family violence victims are female. In 2013, there were 59,725 female victims of family violence, representing 68% of all police-reported family violence victims. In comparison, females represented 46% of victims for violent crimes that were not family-related. The over-representation of female victims is most apparent in spousal violence incidents. Among police-reported incidents of violence by a current spouse, nearly 8 in 10 victims were female, as were a similar proportion of those victimized by a former spouse (79%). The majority of victims were also female in incidents where the perpetrator was the victim's child (62%), parent (57%), extended family member (57%) or sibling (56%).

## Rates of family violence highest among females aged 30 to 34 and males aged 15 to 19

In general, rates of family violence are highest for adults in their 30s and lowest among seniors aged 65 and over (Chart 1.2). In 2013, the rate of police-reported family violence climbed from 130.6 per 100,000 population for children from birth to 4 years of age, to 220.3 per 100,000 population for 5- to 9- year olds; police-reported rates of family violence then rose for each subsequent age group, peaking among adults in their 30s. Adults aged 30 to 34 experienced the highest rate of police-reported family violence at 401.0 per 100,000 population, followed closely by those aged 35 to 39 with a similar rate of 400.7 per 100,000 population. After the peak in police-reported family violence among those in their 30s, rates consistently declined for each subsequent age group, with individuals aged 75 to 89 experiencing the lowest rate (41.6 per 100,000 population).

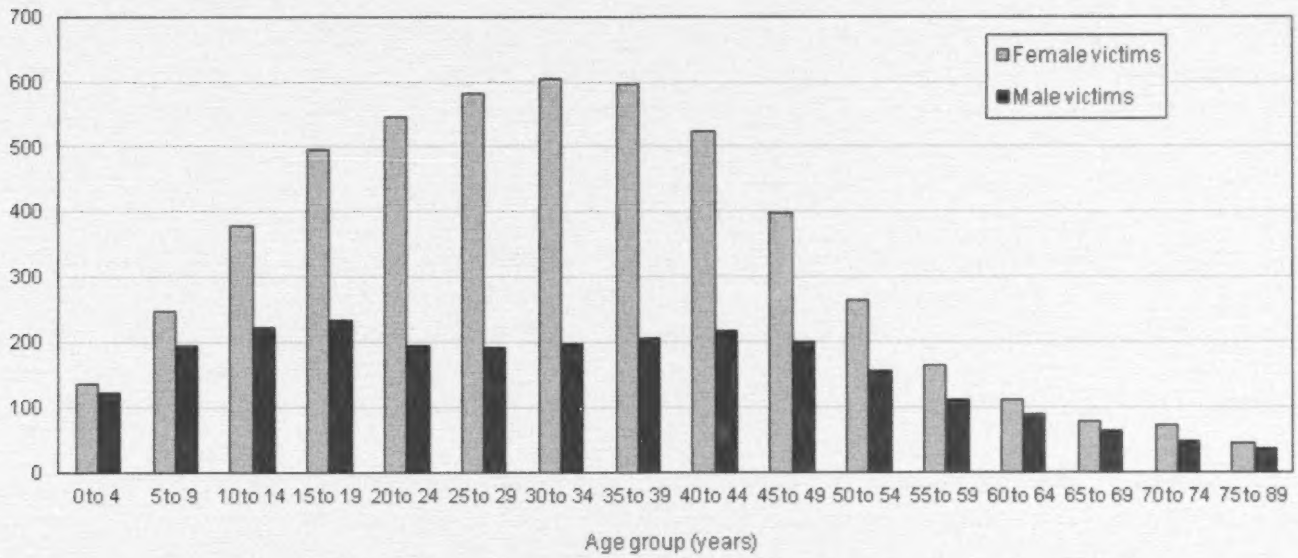
**Chart 1.2**
**Rate of police-reported family violence, by age group of the victim, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from the analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

The age-related risk of family violence is not, however, the same for men and women (Chart 1.3). While police-reported rates of family violence were highest for women aged 30 to 34 (603.1 per 100,000), men's rates were highest among those between the ages of 15 and 19 (233.4 per 100,000).

**Chart 1.3**
**Rate of police-reported family violence by age and sex of victim, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from the analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

## The gap between male and female rates of family violence was narrowest for the youngest and oldest age groups

Overall, the rate of family violence against female victims was 342.1 per 100,000 population, double the rate for males (162.6 per 100,000). For each age group, the rate of police-reported family violence for females was significantly higher than the rate for males. However, the gap between the two sexes was less marked for the youngest (i.e., 9 years and under) and oldest (i.e., 60 years and over) age groups. Family violence rates for girls aged 9 and under were approximately 20% or 1.2 times greater than rates for similarly aged boys. This gender gap widened with age, peaking among those aged 25 to 34, when women were more than 3 times as likely as men to be the victim of violence by a family member. The gap between male and female rates of family violence narrowed in the older age groups, starting particularly with the 50- to 54-year-old group, and continuing up to the senior ages.

## Physical assault most common form of police-reported family violence

In 2013, police reported that there were 63,287 victims of family-related physical assault (levels 1, 2, and 3),[12] representing nearly three-quarters (72%) of all family violence victims. More specifically, over half (58%) of all family violence victims experienced a common assault (level 1) and 14% suffered a major assault (level 2 or 3). Police also identified 7,177 victims of sexual offences by a family member, accounting for 8% of all family violence victims (Table 1.4).[13]

About one in six (17%) victims of police-reported family violence had been the target of an intimidation offence, such as criminal harassment, indecent telephone calls or uttering threats; a proportion similar to that found among victims of violence where the accused was not a family member (22%). Uttering threats, experienced by 12% of family violence victims, was the most prevalent of these intimidation offences.

## Over half of family violence victims did not sustain physical injuries

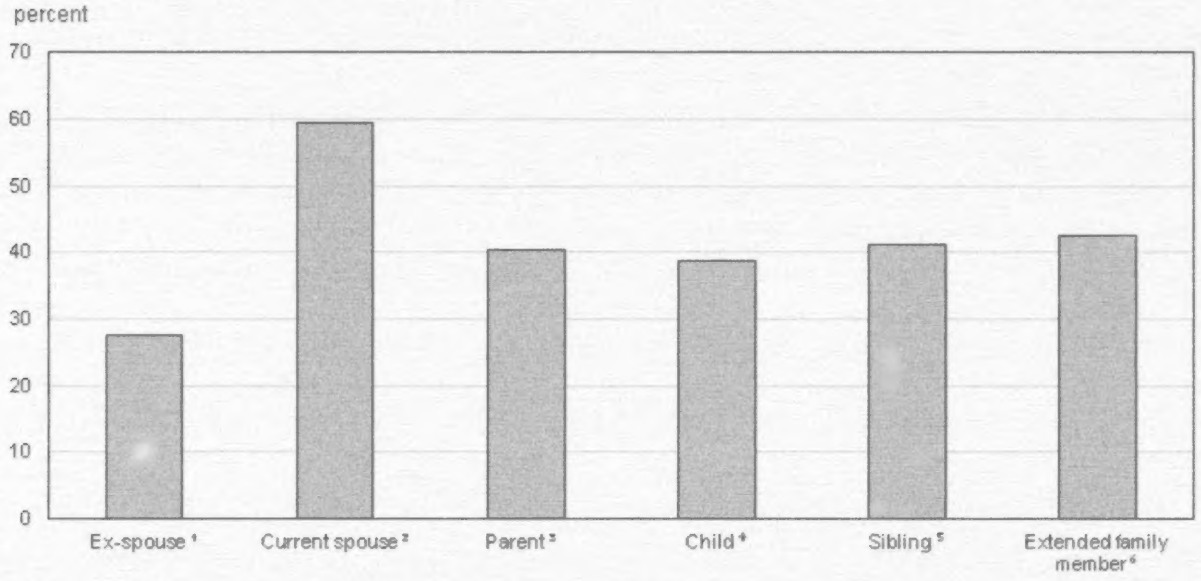
While police-reported data do not measure emotional or psychological consequences, the physical consequences of family violence recorded can range from no physical injury to the death of the victim. Over half (55%) of family violence victims did not suffer any physical injury while just under half (44%) of family violence victims sustained minor physical injuries that either

did not require professional medical treatment or needed first aid. A small percentage of all victims (1.5%) received more serious injuries that required treatment by a medical professional either at the scene or at a medical facility and there were 141 family violence victims (0.2%) who died as a result of their injuries.

When a physical injury was sustained, the accused had most often used their own physical force, such as choking, punching or kicking the victim (84%), while 16% used a weapon. This varied somewhat by the gender of the victim, with male victims (25%) more likely to be injured with a weapon than female victims (12%).

Taking into consideration the type of familial relationship between the accused and the victim, physical injuries occurred most frequently among victims of police-reported violence perpetrated by a current spouse (Chart 1.4). In 2013, more than half (59%) of individuals violently victimized by a current spouse sustained physical injuries. When family violence was committed by an extended family member, 43% of victims suffered injuries, as did similar proportions of those victimized by siblings (41%), parents (40%), and their children (39%).[14] At 27%, the proportion of victims sustaining injury was lowest among individuals who had been victimized by an ex-spouse.

**Chart 1.4**
**Victims of family violence sustaining physical injuries, by relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2013**




1. Includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.
2. Includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.
3. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' (including 'step-child') and was therefore recoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent'). Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parent.
4. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster child. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
5. Includes biological, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.
6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from the analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## More than half of police-reported family violence results in charges

Once the police respond to an incident of family violence, there are three possible outcomes: 1) police may charge an accused; 2) police can clear the incident in another way,[15] such as through departmental discretion[16]; or 3) police do not clear the incident because of insufficient evidence.[17] In 2013, police laid charges in 56% of violent incidents involving family

members. In comparison, charges were laid in 46% of violent incidents that were not family-related. Charges were more commonly laid in incidents where the victim of family violence was female (61%) than in those involving a male victim (46%).

Overall, 28% of family violence incidents were cleared otherwise, most often because the complainant declined to support the laying of charges (15%), followed by departmental discretion (6%) and reasons beyond the control of the department (6%). By comparison, 23% of non-family violence incidents were cleared otherwise. The reasons most often cited were similar to those indicated for incidents of family violence.

## Rates of police-reported family violence generally declining

Trend data[18] indicate that police-reported incidents of family violence have been decreasing in recent years. For instance, attempted murders by family members dropped 7% between 2009 and 2013 (Table 1.5). Rates have declined for more common forms of family violence, as well. From 2009 to 2013, physical assaults,[19] the most prevalent of the family violence offences, dropped 14% overall, declining 17% for spousal victimization and falling 10% for incidents involving other family members.

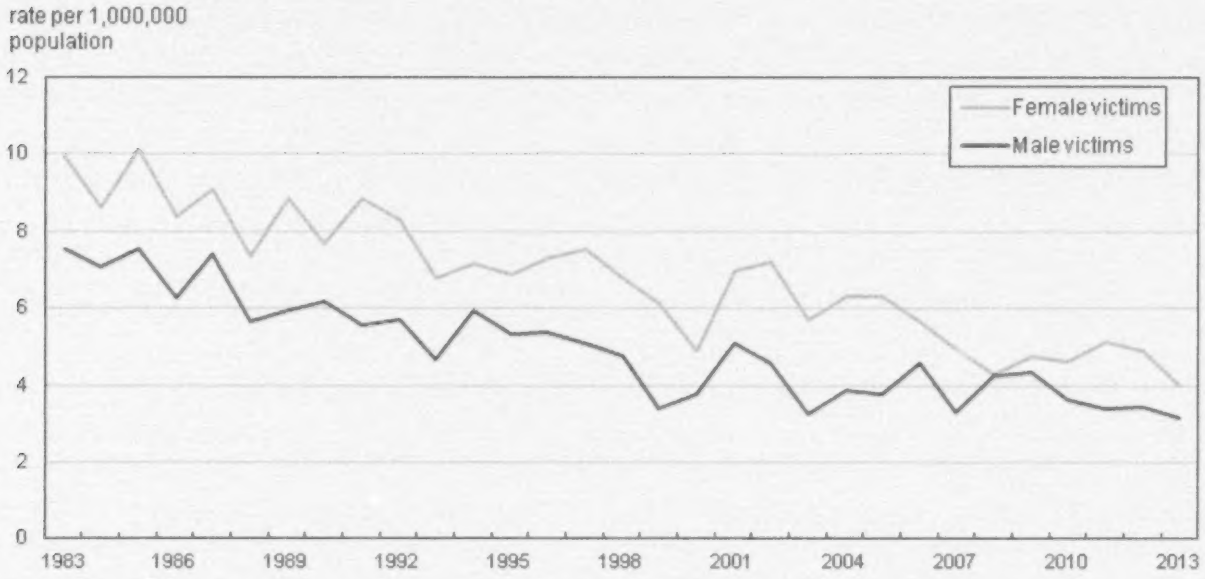
Rates of sexual assault[20] against family members have also declined, though more modestly. The total rate for family-related sexual assaults was down 12% in 2013, compared to the rate recorded five years earlier. This overall decline in family-related sexual assaults is attributable to a decrease in non-spousal incidents of sexual victimization. Non-spousal sexual victimization accounted for approximately 85% of all family-related sexual assaults from 2009 to 2013. While the rate of non-spousal family-related sexual assaults dropped 15% during this five year period, the rate of spousal sexual assaults actually rose 3% during the same time frame.

## The rate of family homicides continues to fall

Although homicide remains a relatively rare event in Canada, since it is not subject to under-reporting to the police to the same extent as other violent crime may be, it is considered to be a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society (Nivette 2011; United Nations 2011). Police-reported data indicate that in 2013 there were 126 victims of familial homicide, representing one-quarter of all homicides that year, or 4 homicides for every million individuals in the population.

Homicides committed by family members have been declining for several years. In 2013, the rate of family homicides per million population was less than half the rate recorded in 1983, a decline of 59% over that time period. (Chart 1.5). While the trend in family-related homicide rates was downward for both male and female victims, females were more likely than males to be killed by a family member, The family-related homicide rate in 2013 was 4 per million population for female victims compared to 3 per million population for male victims. This finding stands in notable contrast to the pattern for male and female rates of non-family related homicides, where the reverse was true. The rate of non-family related homicides for men was 11.7 per million population in 2013, about four times higher than the rate for female victims (3.0 per million).

**Chart 1.5**
**Rate of homicides committed by family members, by sex of the victim, Canada, 1983 to 2013**




**Note:** Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million individuals in the population. Populations based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## Summary

Police-reported family violence incidents continued to account for about one-quarter of violent incidents coming to the attention of police in Canada in 2013. Reflecting the pattern for police-reported violent crime in general, the territories recorded higher rates of family violence than the provinces. In 2013, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories had the highest rates of police-reported family violence, overall, while among the provinces, police-reported family violence rates were highest in Saskatchewan and lowest in Ontario.

Spousal victimization is the most common form of police-reported family violence, accounting for nearly half of all such incidents in 2013. Police-reported data also indicate that family violence disproportionately affects women, particularly those in their 30s. More than two-thirds of police-reported family violence victims were female and women aged 30 to 34 experienced higher rates of police-reported family violence than any other age group, male or female. Among male victims, rates of police-reported family violence were highest for 15- to 19-year olds. The lowest rates of police-reported family violence victimization were recorded among seniors.

As in previous years, a majority of police-reported incidents of family violence involved physical assault. Still, more than half of police-reported victims of family violence did not sustain any physical injury. Among victims who were injured, the vast majority suffered minor injuries that required first aid or did not require medical attention. Physical injuries occurred most often in incidents of police-reported family violence involving a current spouse. Charges were laid or recommended in the majority of family violence incidents reported to police.

Trend data point to a decline in police-reported family violence. In recent years for instance, rates for the most frequent form of police-reported family violence, physical assault, have fallen, dropping 14% between 2009 and 2013. Homicides committed by family members, though rare, have also been on a downward trajectory for several years, declining 59% from 1983 to 2013.

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## Notes

1. For more information on the federal Family Violence Initiative, see Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013, *Family Violence Initiative*, http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/initiative-eng.php.

2. Studies have shown that dating violence (i.e., violence in the context of dating relationships and intimate relationships without cohabitation) and the subsequent consequences for the victims are similar to those seen for spousal violence. See Soroptimist International of the Americas 2013 and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2013, *Dating Violence*, Centre for Youth Crime Prevention, http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cycp-cpcj/dv-vf/index-eng.htm.

3. The 2010 annual report on family violence explored the statistical impact of including dating violence within a definition of family violence. The exploration revealed differences in the overall prevalence of family violence depending on whether dating violence was excluded or included from a definition of family violence. For more information, see Sinha (2012).

4. The General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization was most recently conducted in 2014. However, data from the 2014 GSS were not yet available for analysis at the time this report was prepared.

5. Information on reporting to police for all types of family violence is not available through the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. The GSS collects data on spousal violence and children witnessing spousal violence but not on other types of family-related violent victimization.

6. For a detailed examination of findings on self-reported incidents of spousal victimization from the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization (the most recent GSS on Victimization currently available), see "Self-reported spousal violence, 2009" in Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile (2011).

7. Excludes incidents where the relationship between the accused and the victim is unknown.

8. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

9. Includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (sections 265, 266 and 268, respectively).

10. Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (s. 271, 272 and 273, respectively).

11. Only the percent change in rates of family-related physical and sexual assault is included here; calculating the annual percent change in the overall rate of family violence victims is not possible for the following reasons: 1) differences over the years in the number of 'rejected' victim records for the UCR data file; and 2) differences in the victim record requirements for

violent offences (i.e., not all violent offences require the submission of information on the victim characteristics, such as the accused-victim relationship) and possible variations in the distribution of these offences over the years.

12. Assault is a violent offence classified into three levels: level 1 or common assault, the least serious form including behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats; level 2 assault, defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm; and level 3 aggravated assault, defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

13. For violent crimes that were NOT family-related, 60% of victims experienced some type of physical assault (41% common assault; 14% major assault), and 7% were the victim of a sexual offence.

14. Violence by extended family members, siblings, parents and children each represent a smaller proportion of family-related violence than family violence involving a spouse.

15. When an incident is cleared in another way or cleared 'otherwise', at least one accused must have been identified and there must have been sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means for one of many reasons.

16. Examples of departmental discretion might include giving a warning, caution or a referral to a community-based program.

17. An incident may also not be cleared when an accused has not been identified in connection with the incident. The incident may not be cleared at the time of reporting to the UCR Survey, but may be cleared by police at a later time. Updates to the clearance status on the UCR Survey are made accordingly. In 2013, 16% of family violence incidents were not cleared.

18. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, the numbers and rates may not match with totals presented elsewhere in the report. Only trend data for the years 2009 to 2013 were available at the time this report was prepared.

19. Includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (sections 265, 266 and 268, respectively).

20. Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (s. 271, 272 and 273, respectively).

## Detailed data tables

Table 1.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2013

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Relationship of accused to victim** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| **Total victims of family violence** | **59,725** | **34** | **28,095** | **17** | **87,820** | **26** |
| Total spouses | 33,321 | 19 | 8,724 | 5 | 42,045 | 13 |
| Current spouse[1] | 23,837 | 14 | 6,216 | 4 | 30,053 | 9 |
| Ex-spouse[2] | 9,484 | 5 | 2,508 | 2 | 11,992 | 4 |
| Other immediate or extended family member | 26,404 | 15 | 19,371 | 12 | 45,775 | 14 |
| Parent[3] | 8,658 | 5 | 6,639 | 4 | 15,297 | 5 |
| Child[4] | 5,341 | 3 | 3,243 | 2 | 8,584 | 3 |
| Sibling[5] | 5,454 | 3 | 4,207 | 3 | 9,661 | 3 |
| Extended family member[6] | 6,951 | 4 | 5,282 | 3 | 12,233 | 4 |
| **Total victims of non-family violence** | **114,915** | **66** | **132,664** | **83** | **247,579** | **74** |
| Dating partners[7] | 38,728 | 22 | 10,185 | 6 | 48,913 | 15 |
| Boyfriend or girlfriend | 23,700 | 14 | 6,161 | 4 | 29,861 | 9 |
| Ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend | 14,134 | 8 | 3,541 | 2 | 17,675 | 5 |
| Other intimate partner | 894 | 1 | 483 | 0.3 | 1,377 | 0.4 |
| Close friend[8] | 7,169 | 4 | 7,205 | 4 | 14,374 | 4 |
| Business relationship | 5,317 | 3 | 8,139 | 5 | 13,456 | 4 |
| Casual acquaintance[9] | 33,712 | 19 | 43,636 | 27 | 77,348 | 23 |
| Criminal relationship[10] | 348 | 0.2 | 1,779 | 1 | 2,127 | 1 |
| Authority figure[11] | 2,579 | 1 | 3,623 | 2 | 6,202 | 2 |
| Stranger | 27,062 | 15 | 58,097 | 36 | 85,159 | 25 |
| **Unknown relationship[12]** | **99** | **...** | **110** | **...** | **209** | **...** |
| **Total victims of violent crime[13]** | **174,739** | **100** | **160,869** | **100** | **335,608** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.
2. Includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.
3. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parent. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' (including 'step-child') and was therefore recoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent').
4. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster child. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
5. Includes biological, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.
6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
7. Includes victims under 90 years of age, including dating partner victims under the age of 15. The counts for dating partner victims do not match the information presented in Section 2 of the report, which examines intimate partner violence for those aged 15 years and older.
8. Includes roommates. 'Roommates' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.
9. Includes neighbours.
10. Includes relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
11. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority who are not family members. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor, teen-to-youth counsellors/group home workers, prisoner-to guard). 'Reverse authority figures' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.
12. Includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as unknown.
13. Includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assault, assault, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.
**Note:** Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship of the accused to the victim was known. Excludes incidents where the sex or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.2
Victims of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2013

| Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1,2] | number | rate[3] |
|---|---|---|
| Gatineau[4] | 1,055 | 327.9 |
| Saguenay | 524 | 314.3 |
| Québec | 2,271 | 291.4 |
| Montréal | 11,118 | 281.5 |
| Trois–Rivières | 422 | 276.0 |
| Saskatoon | 773 | 261.9 |
| Saint John | 376 | 259.7 |
| Moncton | 361 | 253.8 |
| Brantford | 333 | 249.2 |
| Kelowna | 446 | 243.3 |
| Edmonton | 3,120 | 243.0 |
| Thunder Bay | 278 | 234.4 |
| Greater Sudbury | 377 | 230.0 |
| Regina | 529 | 227.3 |
| Abbotsford–Mission | 361 | 205.3 |
| St. John's | 406 | 201.5 |
| Sherbrooke | 347 | 179.9 |
| Kingston | 288 | 177.1 |
| Calgary | 2,409 | 175.9 |
| Toronto[5] | 9,314 | 174.8 |
| Victoria | 604 | 171.3 |
| Winnipeg | 1,350 | 169.6 |
| Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo | 884 | 166.3 |
| Halifax | 662 | 163.0 |
| Hamilton[6] | 878 | 162.3 |
| Windsor | 477 | 159.8 |
| Vancouver | 3,874 | 159.6 |
| Barrie | 289 | 139.8 |
| Peterborough | 165 | 137.4 |
| London | 666 | 134.0 |
| St. Catharines–Niagara | 582 | 132.0 |
| Guelph | 166 | 129.8 |
| Ottawa[7] | 958 | 99.0 |
| **CMA Total[8]** | **47,913** | **196.5** |
| **Non-CMA Total** | **39,907** | **385.8** |
| **Canada[8]** | **87,820** | **252.9** |

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA
8. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.3
Victims of police-reported family violence, by province and territory, 2013

| Province and territory | Total physical assault and sexual assault | | | Physical assault (levels 1, 2 and 3)[1] | | | Sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3)[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[2] | percent change of rate from previous year | number | rate[2] | percent change of rate from previous year | number | rate[2] | percent change of rate from previous year |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,130 | 215.8 | ... | 1,053 | 201.1 | -8 | 77 | 14.7 | -15 |
| Prince Edward Island | 200 | 144.3 | ... | 174 | 125.6 | -31 | 26 | 18.8 | -3 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,601 | 172.5 | ... | 1,439 | 155.0 | -7 | 162 | 17.5 | -11 |
| New Brunswick | 1,426 | 190.1 | ... | 1,298 | 173.0 | -9 | 128 | 17.1 | -8 |
| Quebec | 17,401 | 217.8 | ... | 16,174 | 202.5 | -3 | 1,227 | 15.4 | -9 |
| Ontario | 17,336 | 131.0 | ... | 15,608 | 117.9 | -5 | 1,728 | 13.1 | -13 |
| Manitoba | 3,950 | 323.7 | ... | 3,566 | 292.3 | -9 | 384 | 31.5 | -1 |
| Saskatchewan | 4,401 | 410.3 | ... | 4,097 | 382.0 | -9 | 304 | 28.3 | 6 |
| Alberta | 9,528 | 238.5 | ... | 8,810 | 220.5 | -9 | 718 | 18.0 | -7 |
| British Columbia | 8,583 | 189.9 | ... | 8,020 | 177.5 | -9 | 563 | 12.5 | -12 |
| Yukon | 297 | 811.0 | ... | 285 | 778.2 | 20 | 12 | 32.8 | -34 |
| Northwest Territories | 768 | 1,767.1 | ... | 723 | 1,663.6 | -2 | 45 | 103.5 | 55 |
| Nunavut | 838 | 2,355.5 | ... | 777 | 2,184.1 | -10 | 61 | 171.5 | 4 |
| **Canada** | **67,459** | **195.6** | **...** | **62,024** | **179.8** | **-6** | **5,435** | **15.8** | **-9** |

... not applicable
1. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, the rates may not match totals presented elsewhere in the report.
2. Rate per 100,000 population.
**Note:** Calculating annual percent change in the overall rate of family violence victims is not possible for two reasons: 1) differences over the years in the number of rejected victim records; and 2) differences in the victim record requirements for violent offences (i.e., not all violent offences require the submission of information on the victim characteristics, such as the accused-victim relationship) and possible variations in the distribution of these offences over the years. Excludes incidents where the sex or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 1.4
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2013

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of offence** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death and attempted murder[1] | 167 | 0.3 | 116 | 0.4 | 283 | 0.3 |
| Sexual offences[2] | 5,953 | 10 | 1,224 | 4 | 7,177 | 8 |
| Physical assault | 41,643 | 70 | 21,644 | 77 | 63,287 | 72 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[3] | 6,787 | 11 | 5,331 | 19 | 12,118 | 14 |
| Common assault (level 1)[4] | 34,586 | 58 | 16,150 | 57 | 50,736 | 58 |
| Other assaults[5] | 270 | 0.5 | 163 | 1 | 433 | 0.5 |
| Criminal harassment | 3,054 | 5 | 609 | 2 | 3,663 | 4 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 858 | 1 | 341 | 1 | 1,199 | 1 |
| Uttering threats | 6,464 | 11 | 3,637 | 13 | 10,101 | 12 |
| Robbery | 111 | 0.2 | 76 | 0.3 | 187 | 0.2 |
| Other violent offences[6] | 1,475 | 2 | 448 | 2 | 1,923 | 2 |
| **Total** | **59,725** | **100** | **28,095** | **100** | **87,820** | **100** |

1. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
2. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
3. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
4. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
5. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace or public officer, and other assaults.
6. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing bodily harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.5
Victims of selected police-reported offences against family members, 2009 to 2013

| Relationship of accused to victim and type of offence | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | Percent change from 2009 to 2013 (rate) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | |
| **Spouse[2]** | **37,828** | **137.2** | **36,543** | **131.0** | **35,944** | **127.5** | **34,579** | **121.1** | **33,049** | **114.4** | **-17** |
| Violations causing death | 72 | 0.3 | 68 | 0.2 | 67 | 0.2 | 62 | 0.2 | 47 | 0.2 | -38 |
| Attempted murder[3] | 69 | 0.3 | 63 | 0.2 | 68 | 0.2 | 50 | 0.2 | 67 | 0.2 | -7 |
| Physical assault[4] | 36,877 | 133.8 | 35,564 | 127.5 | 34,972 | 124.0 | 33,545 | 117.5 | 32,062 | 110.9 | -17 |
| Sexual assault[5] | 810 | 2.9 | 848 | 3.0 | 837 | 3.0 | 922 | 3.2 | 873 | 3.0 | 3 |
| **Other family member[6]** | **37,357** | **112.8** | **36,984** | **110.6** | **36,893** | **109.3** | **36,951** | **108.3** | **34,692** | **100.6** | **-11** |
| Violations causing death | 89 | 0.3 | 82 | 0.2 | 83 | 0.2 | 93 | 0.3 | 93 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Attempted murder[3] | 78 | 0.2 | 67 | 0.2 | 65 | 0.2 | 81 | 0.2 | 75 | 0.2 | -8 |
| Physical assault[4] | 32,045 | 96.8 | 31,566 | 94.4 | 31,759 | 94.1 | 31,794 | 93.2 | 29,962 | 86.9 | -10 |
| Sexual assault[5] | 5,145 | 15.5 | 5,269 | 15.8 | 4,986 | 14.8 | 4,983 | 14.6 | 4,562 | 13.2 | -15 |
| **Total family members** | **75,185** | **227.0** | **73,527** | **219.9** | **72,837** | **215.8** | **71,530** | **209.6** | **67,741** | **196.4** | **-13** |
| Violations causing death | 161 | 0.5 | 150 | 0.4 | 150 | 0.4 | 155 | 0.5 | 140 | 0.4 | -16 |
| Attempted murder[3] | 147 | 0.4 | 130 | 0.4 | 133 | 0.4 | 131 | 0.4 | 142 | 0.4 | -7 |
| Physical assault[4] | 68,922 | 208.1 | 67,130 | 200.8 | 66,731 | 197.7 | 65,339 | 191.5 | 62,024 | 179.8 | -14 |
| Sexual assault[5] | 5,955 | 18.0 | 6,117 | 18.3 | 5,823 | 17.3 | 5,905 | 17.3 | 5,435 | 15.8 | -12 |

1. Rate per 100,000 population based on population aged 89 and younger.
2. Spousal violence includes current and former common-law and legally married spouses. Rates of spousal violence are calculated based on the population aged 15 and older and not the spousal population. As a result, the rate is an underestimation.
3. Includes conspire to commit murder.
4. Includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3.
5. Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3.
6. Includes children, parents, siblings and extended family members.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses of attempted murder, physical assault and sexual assault due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, the rates may not match totals presented elsewhere in the report.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

## Section 2: Intimate partner violence

by Pascale Beaupré

Spousal violence, or more generally violence between intimate partners (see Text box 2.1), has serious physical, emotional, social and economic consequences for victims, their family and society, making this phenomenon a major public health issue (World Health Organization, 2013). Intimate partner violence often occurs as physical violence. However, there are many other forms of violence or abuse, including emotional abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. Intimate partner violence also has a criminal component, as it can involve criminal offences such as assault, uttering threats or harassment, and can even lead to homicide.

The crime statistics presented in this section concern acts of intimate partner violence that are brought to the attention of police services in Canada. Intimate partner violence refers to violence against current or former spouses or dating partners, whether or not the individuals live together or have children.

Spousal violence and dating violence share various characteristics, including some degree of an emotional attachment between the partners (Donnelly and Burgess 2008) and the possible recurring nature of the violence (Cui and Gordon 2013). In addition, research has shown that the consequences of spousal violence and dating partner violence can be similar. For example, studies have shown that the consequences of dating partner violence can include drug and alcohol use and the risk of depression (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control 2014; Adam et al. 2011).

The analysis in this section covers forms of intimate partner violence that constitute a crime under the *Criminal Code* and have been reported to and substantiated by police. These include physical assault, criminal harassment, uttering threats, robbery, sexual assault, homicide, attempted murder, kidnapping and forcible confinement, and, since 2008, indecent or harassing telephone calls and intimidation offences. The following analysis does not include incidents that were not reported to the police,[1] or cases of emotional abuse and financial abuse that do not reach the criminal threshold.[2]

### Text box 2.1
### Definitions

**Spousal violence:** Violence committed against a spouse (married or common-law) or an ex-spouse (from a marriage or common-law relationship). This category includes victims aged 15 to 89.

**Dating violence:** Violence committed by a boyfriend or girlfriend (current or former), or by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction, but who was not considered the victim's boyfriend or girlfriend. This category includes victims aged 15 to 89.

**Intimate partner violence:** Violence committed by spouses and dating partners, that is violence committed within an intimate relationship. This category includes victims aged 15 to 89.

**Non-intimate partner violence:** Violence committed by a family member (parent, child, other immediate or extended family member), a friend, an acquaintance, an associate (in business or in a criminal relationship), an authority figure, a neighbour or a stranger. Includes victims under 90 years of age.

### The majority of police-reported victims of intimate partner violence are victimized by a current partner

In 2013, approximately 336,000 persons aged 15 to 89 were victims of a police-reported violent crime. Among these, more than one quarter (27%) had been victimized by an intimate partner (Table 2.1). Of all victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, 53% were victims of dating violence, while 47% were victims of spousal violence.

The end of a relationship does not necessarily mean an end to the threat of violence. In some cases, the violence can intensify or even begin following a breakup (Johnson 2006). One third (33%) of victims of intimate partner violence were victimized by a former spouse or dating partner. Violence after a break-up was more common among ex-dating partners (20%) than among ex-spouses (13%), a tendency that was true for both men and women.

Two thirds (nearly 61,000) of victims of intimate partner violence were victimized by a current intimate partner. Police-reported data show that, in 2013, married and common-law spouses were as likely as dating partners to experience intimate partner violence (34% versus 33%).

## Most victims of intimate partner violence are female

As is the case for violence against children and seniors, the majority of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence are female. In 2013, women accounted for nearly 80% of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence (Table 2.1).[3]

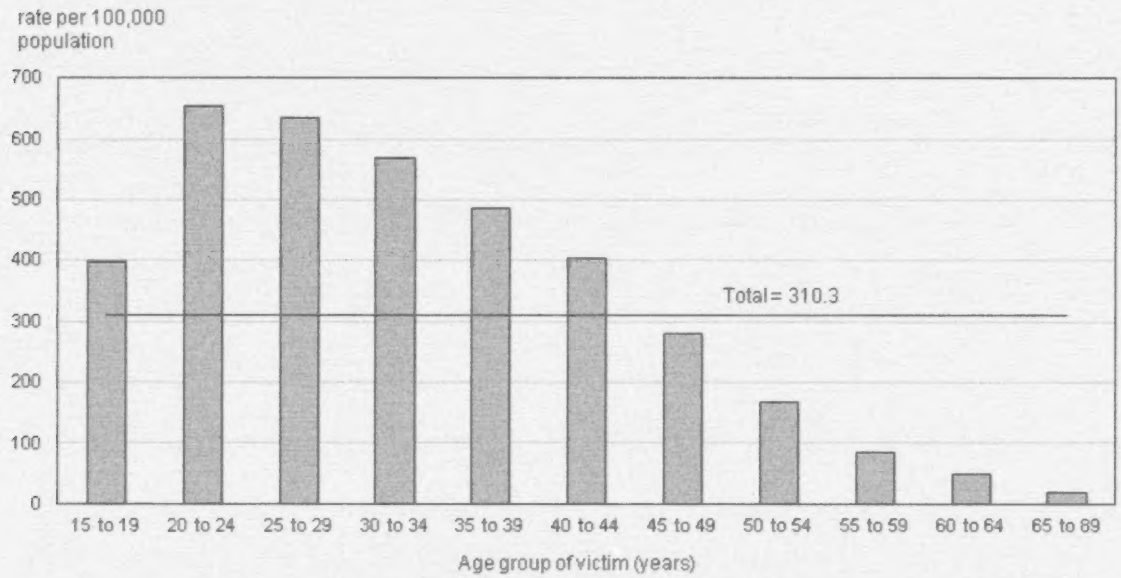
In 2013, 175,000 victims of police-reported violent crime were women, accounting for just over half (52%) of all victims of violent crime.

About four in ten female victims (41%) were victimized by an intimate partner, a proportion which was 3.5 times higher than for men (12%). In contrast, men were more frequently victimized by a friend or acquaintance (40%), or a stranger (36%).

## Individuals in their early twenties are at greatest risk of intimate partner victimization

As with violent crimes in general, young adults have the highest rate of intimate partner victimization. The risk of intimate partner victimization lessens as age increases (Chart 2.1).

**Chart 2.1**
**Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by age group of victim, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population figures are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada's Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

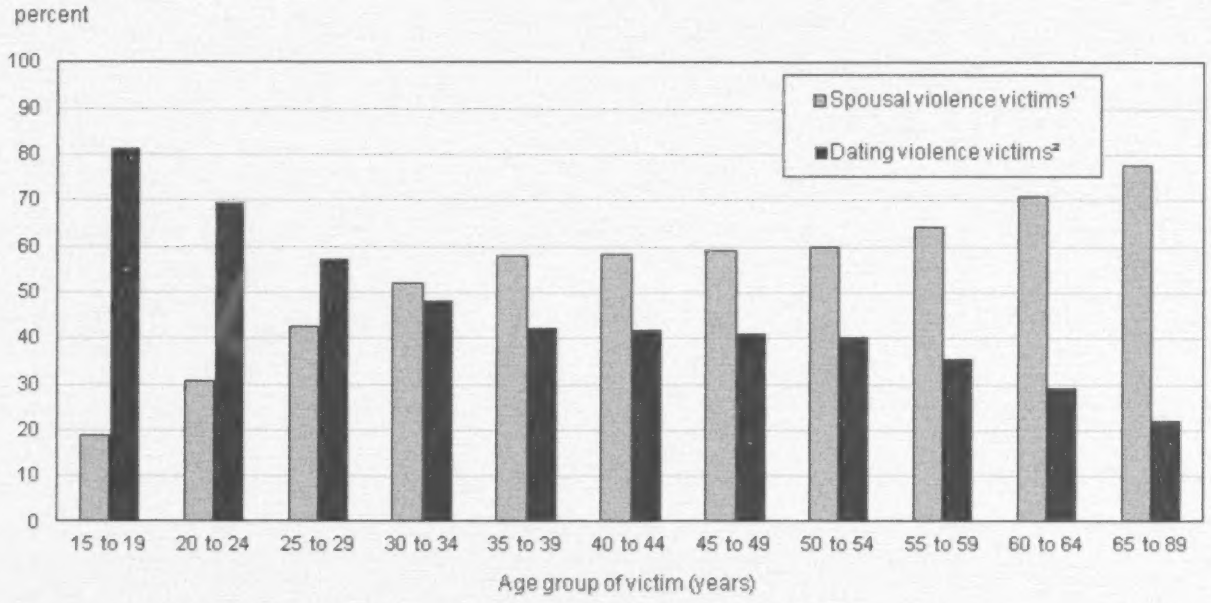
The highest rate of police-reported intimate partner violence in 2013 was for victims aged 20 to 24 years (653.7 per 100,000 population), followed closely by victims aged 25 to 29 years (636.1 per 100,000). Those aged 30 to 34 years (569.6 per 100,000) and 35 to 39 years (485.7 per 100,000) had the next highest rates, while the rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was similar to that for victims in their early forties (398.7 per 100,000 and 403.0 per 100,000, respectively).

## Four in ten victims of intimate partner violence aged 30 to 54 are victimized by a dating partner

Most police-reported intimate partner violence among adults under the age of 25 occurs between dating partners (Chart 2.2). Among victims of intimate partner violence aged 15 to 19, slightly more than 80% had been victimized by a dating partner. The proportion of those victimized by a dating partner declined as the victims' age increased, falling from 70% for the 20 to 24 age group to 57% for the 25 to 29 age group.

In contrast, the majority of intimate partner victims aged 30 and older were victimized by a spouse. This likely reflects the increase in the proportion of married and common-law spouses, and the decrease in the proportion of dating partners over time. Women and men in their thirties, for example, are more likely than those in their twenties to be married or living in a common law relationship (Milan, 2013). While dating violence as a proportion of intimate partner violence decreased with age, it still accounted for 40% of intimate partner victimization for those aged 30 to 54 years.

**Chart 2.2**
**Victims of police-reported spousal violence and dating violence, by age group of victim, Canada, 2013**




1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

**Note:** Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was unkown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

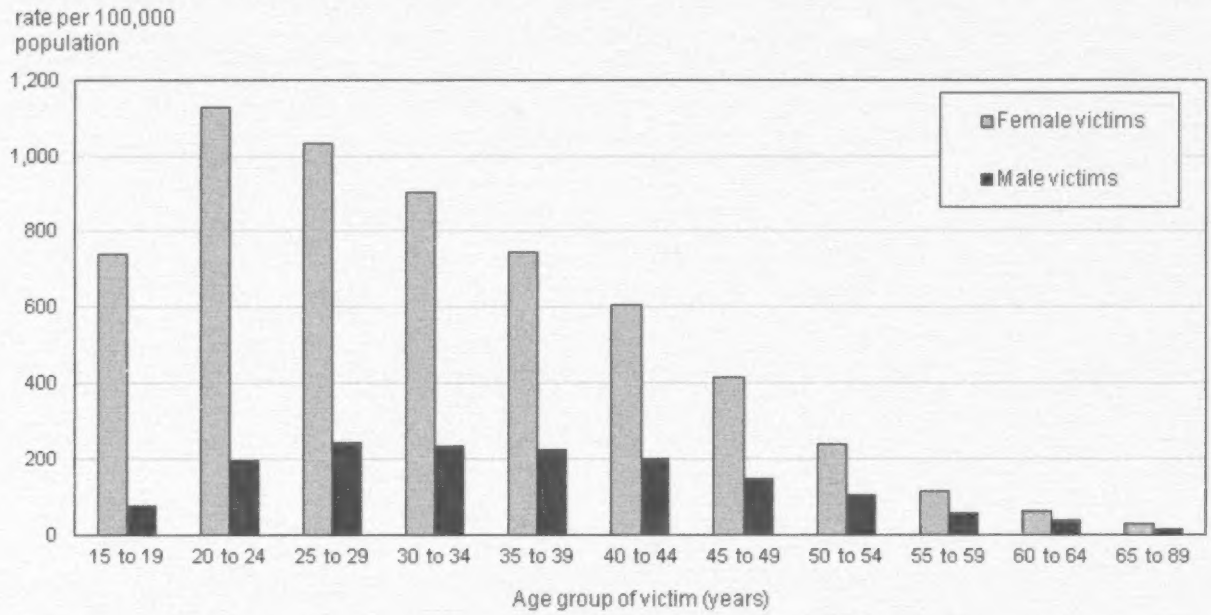
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

The dating relationships of teenagers and young adults tend to be, on average, less stable than those of older persons (Carver et al. 2003). However, this does not mean that youth and young adults are less vulnerable to violence when the dating relationship ends. Police-reported data for 2013 show that nearly one third (30%) of youth aged 15 to 19 years who experienced intimate partner violence had been victimized by a former dating partner (Table 2.2). In addition, one quarter (25%) of victims aged 20 to 24 years were victimized by a former dating partner.

## Women aged 15 to 24 have considerably higher rates of intimate partner victimization than their male counterparts

Intimate partner violence is most likely to occur when individuals are in their twenties and thirties, for both women and men. Regardless of age, the rate of intimate partner victimization was higher for female victims than for male victims (Chart 2.3). The rate of police-reported intimate partner violence peaked for women aged 20 to 24 years, with a rate 6 times higher than that for men in the same age group (1,127.7 victims per 100,000 women compared to 197.3 victims per 100,000 men). The rate of intimate partner violence against women decreased with age thereafter, but remained 2 to 3 times higher than that for men.

**Chart 2.3**
**Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex and age group of victim, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population figures are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded because of possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## More than 3 in 4 victims of intimate partner violence are physically assaulted

As in previous years, physical assault was, by far, the most frequent type of police-reported offence committed against victims of intimate partner violence. In 2013, 76% of victims of intimate partner violence were physically assaulted, with 62% being victims of common assault, the least serious assault category (Table 2.3).[4] This was followed by major assault[5] (14%), threats (8%) and criminal harassment (7%). The distribution of offences was similar for both dating and spousal relationships. More specifically, 78% of victims of spousal violence and 75% of victims of dating violence were victims of assault.

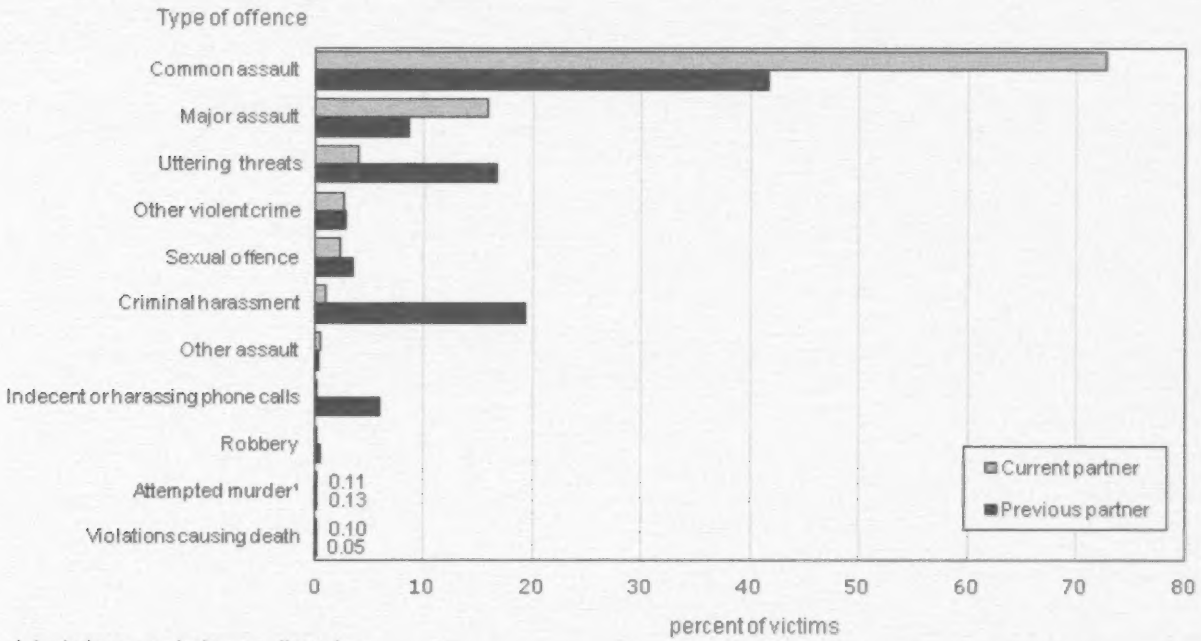
Police-reported data indicate that the four most frequently committed offences against victims of intimate partner violence were the same regardless of sex: common assault, major assault, uttering threats and criminal harassment. A higher proportion of male victims than female victims were physically assaulted (85% versus 74%). Two thirds of male victims of intimate partner violence (65%) had experienced common assault and a further 20% were victims of major assault. This may be related to the fact that intimate partner violence against male victims more often involves the presence of a weapon (22% compared with 11% for female victims). In contrast, a higher proportion of female victims were threatened (9% versus 6%), and the proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who were criminally harassed was twice has high for female victims than for male victims (8% versus 4%) in 2013.

In general, police-reported sexual offences are committed more often against women. This is particularly the case with sexual offences against an intimate partner. The vast majority of victims of police-reported intimate partner sexual offences (98%) were female. This was also true for "other violent crimes" (94%), such as forcible confinement and kidnapping.

## Physical assaults are more often committed by a current partner, while intimidation offences are more often perpetrated by a former partner

The type of offence committed against an intimate partner differs depending on whether the relationship is an existing or former one. Police-reported data for 2013 show that, among individuals victimized by their current spouse or dating partner, nearly 9 in 10 were physically assaulted. In contrast, half of those victimized by a former spouse or partner were physically assaulted (Chart 2.4).

**Chart 2.4**
**Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of intimate partner relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2013**




1. Includes conspire to commit murder.
**Note:** Excludes other intimate partners, since it is not known whether the relationship was current or former. Excludes incidents for which the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

In 2013, 73% of individuals victimized by a current intimate partner were victims of common assault, compared with 42% of those victimized by a former intimate partner. With regard to major assault, the proportion of those victimized by a current partner (16%) was nearly double that of those victimized by an ex-partner (9%).

Intimidation offences were more common among ex-partners than current ones. Police-reported data show that 42% of victims of a former intimate partner had experienced threats, criminal harassment, or harassing or indecent phone calls, 8 times the proportion for current intimate partners (5%).

Moreover, of all intimidation offences committed against intimate partners, the vast majority involved an ex-partner. Specifically, more than 90% of offences involving criminal harassment and harassing or indecent phone calls were committed after a separation.

## More than two thirds of intimate partner violence incidents involve the threat of physical force

When considering the most serious weapon present during a violent offence, it is important to note that according to police-reported data any type of weapon or threat of force is considered to be a weapon, as such both physical force and verbal threats and/or gestures causing injury would be considered as weapons. In the majority of intimate partner incidents (71%),

the threat of physical force was present while a firearm was present in 5% of incidents (Table 2.4). No weapon or physical force was involved in 16% of intimate partner violence incidents.

The proportion of intimate partner violence incidents involving a weapon increases with the age of the victim. In 2013, a weapon was present in 19% of incidents of spousal violence involving victims aged 65 and older, compared with 12% of incidents involving victims aged 15 to 19 (data not shown). The same pattern applies to victims of dating violence: a weapon was present in 15% of incidents of dating violence involving victims aged 65 and older, compared with 11% of those aged 15 to 19 (data not shown).

In 2013, male victims of police-reported intimate partner violence were somewhat more likely than female victims to be injured (56% versus 52%), similar to findings from 2012 (data not shown). This may be related to the fact that a weapon was more often involved when the victim was male (proportions given above). Previous studies have shown that women are more likely to use a weapon because of differences in physical strength that may exist between them and their male partners (Busch and Rosenburg 2004).

## Charges are laid or recommended against the accused in more than 7 in 10 incidents of intimate partner violence

In 2013, 71% of police-reported intimate partner violence incidents resulted in criminal charges being laid or recommended against the accused (Table 2.5). This proportion was almost double the proportion of non-intimate partner violence (40%) (data not shown).[6] Among incidents of intimate partner violence, 15% were cleared by means other than a charge.[7] An incident may be cleared through other means if the complainant requested that charges not be laid, for reasons beyond the control of the police service, or through departmental discretion. According to police-reported data, the proportion of incidents cleared through other means in 2013 was slightly higher for spousal violence incidents than for incidents of dating violence (18% versus 13%). The remaining 13% of incidents of intimate partner violence that came to the attention of the police were not cleared.

Overall, charges were laid or recommended against the accused more often when the victim of intimate partner violence was female than when the victim was male (74% versus 61% - data not shown). There was virtually no difference from previous years in the proportion of spousal and dating violence incidents that resulted in charges being laid against the accused (72% in 2012 and 71% in 2013).

## Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate of intimate partner violence among the provinces in 2013

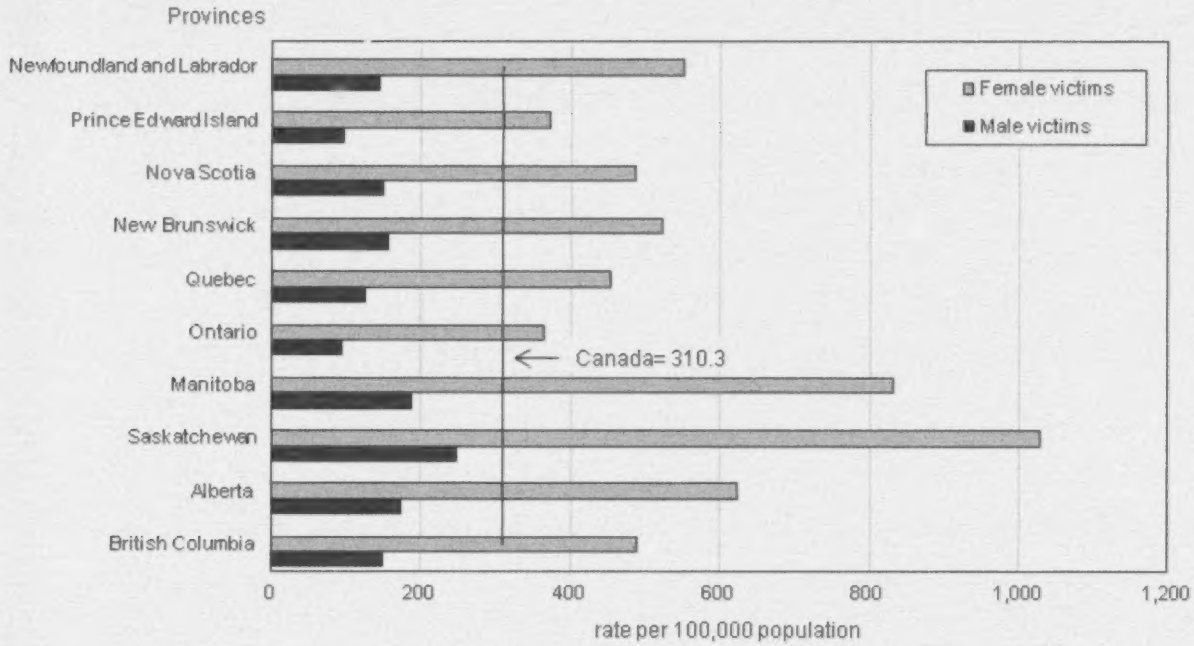
The regional variations in intimate partner violence generally mirror those of overall violent crimes.

In 2013, seven provinces recorded a rate of intimate partner violence that was above the national rate of 310.3 victims per 100,000 population (Chart 2.5; Table 2.6). Saskatchewan (635.0 victims per 100,000 population) recorded the highest rate, at more than twice the national rate. Manitoba and Alberta had the next highest rates. In 2013, Ontario and Prince Edward Island had the lowest rates of police-reported intimate partner violence; both recorded rates below 300 victims per 100,000 population.

Generally, police-reported rates of intimate partner violence tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. The rate in Nunavut was approximately 6 times higher than in Saskatchewan, the province with the highest rate. The rates recorded in the Northwest Territories and Yukon were 2,103.5 victims and 1,247.0 victims per 100,000 population, respectively.

The regional differences noted in intimate partner violence may be related to a number of factors, including the population's demographic profile, its socio-economic characteristics, the implementation of prevention programs to reduce individuals' vulnerability, and the availability and extent of resources to assist victims and perpetrators (Sinha, 2013).

**Chart 2.5**
**Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and province, 2013**



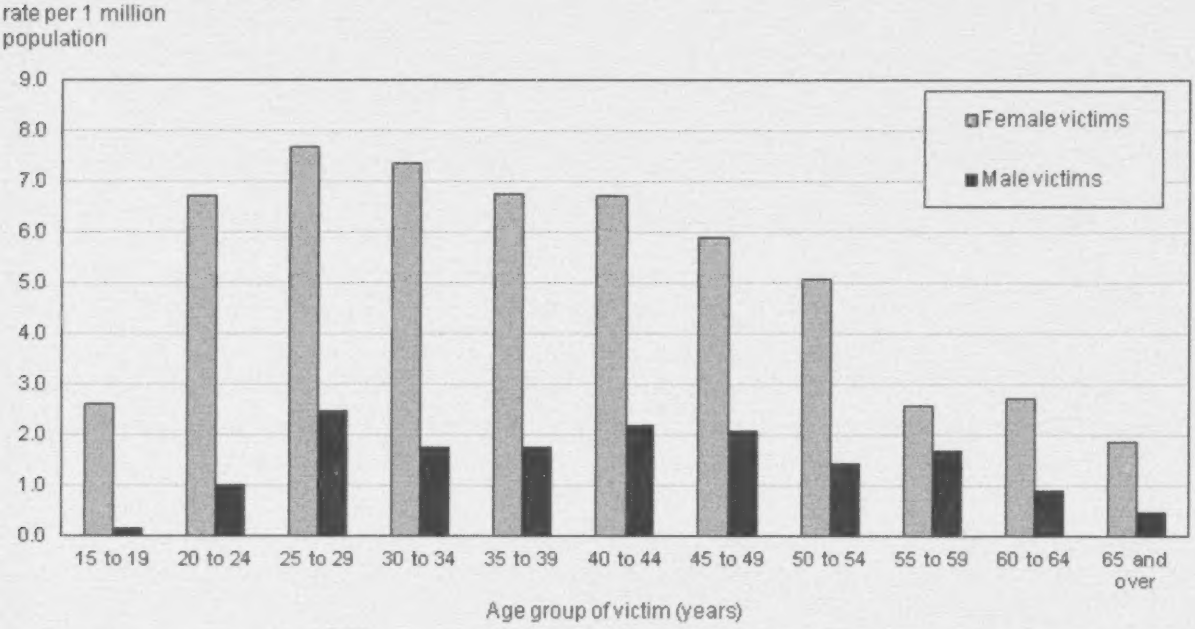

**Note:** Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population figures are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada's Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## The intimate partner homicide rate for women peaks in the mid-twenties

Between 2003 and 2013, police services reported 960 homicides committed against intimate partners (Chart 2.6). Of these, 747 were committed against a female victim, representing more than three quarters of homicides against an intimate partner.

From 2003 to 2013, rates of intimate partner homicides against women were highest for victims aged 20 to 44, ranging from 6 to 8 victims per million population. The rate of intimate partner homicides for female victims was at its highest for those in their mid-twenties, with a rate of 7.68 victims per million population for this age group (Chart 2.3).

**Chart 2.6**
**Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex and age group of victim, Canada, 2003 to 2013**




**Note:** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population. Population figures are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada's Demography Division. Intimate partners include married, separated and divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former) and dating partners (current and former). A small number of homicides committed against spouses and dating partners under 15 years of age are excluded in the rate calculations. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 to better meet changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the age or sex of the victim was unknown.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## Generally, homicides more often involve married than common-law partners

Of intimate partner homicides occurring between 2003 and 2013, three quarters (76%) were committed by a legally married or common-law spouse (from a current or former union)[8] (Table 2.7). The accused person was a dating partner (current or former) in 22% of homicides committed against an intimate partner. During this period, the vast majority (77%) of intimate partner homicides involved current intimate partners at the time of the incident.

Since 2003, there have been variations in the proportions of spousal homicides that were committed by a married spouse or a common-law partner (current or former). In some years, homicides against legally married spouses were more frequent, whereas in the other years, those against common-law partners were more frequent. In 2003, nearly 70% of spousal homicides were committed by a married spouse (from a current or former union). By contrast, in 2013, spousal homicides were fairly evenly distributed between married and common-law spouses (current or former): 49% were committed by a married spouse while 51% were committed by a common-law spouse. Most people in couples are married spouses, but the share has dropped over time. In 2011, four-fifths (80%) of individuals in couples were married spouses and the remaining one-fifth (20%) were common-law partners (Statistics Canada, 2012). A decade earlier, 84% of people in couples were married spouses while 16% were common-law partners.

## The escalation of an argument is the most common motive for intimate partner homicide

While the Homicide Survey collects information on the reported "apparent" motive for the homicide, it is important to note that the "apparent" motive reflects the perceived reason for the violence by the accused and it should not be interpreted as causality. Data reported by police between 2003 and 2013 indicate that, among intimate partner homicides, the most frequently reported motive was the escalation of an argument or quarrel (nearly 40%). A feeling of frustration, anger or despair (26%) was the second most common reported motive, followed by jealousy (20%).

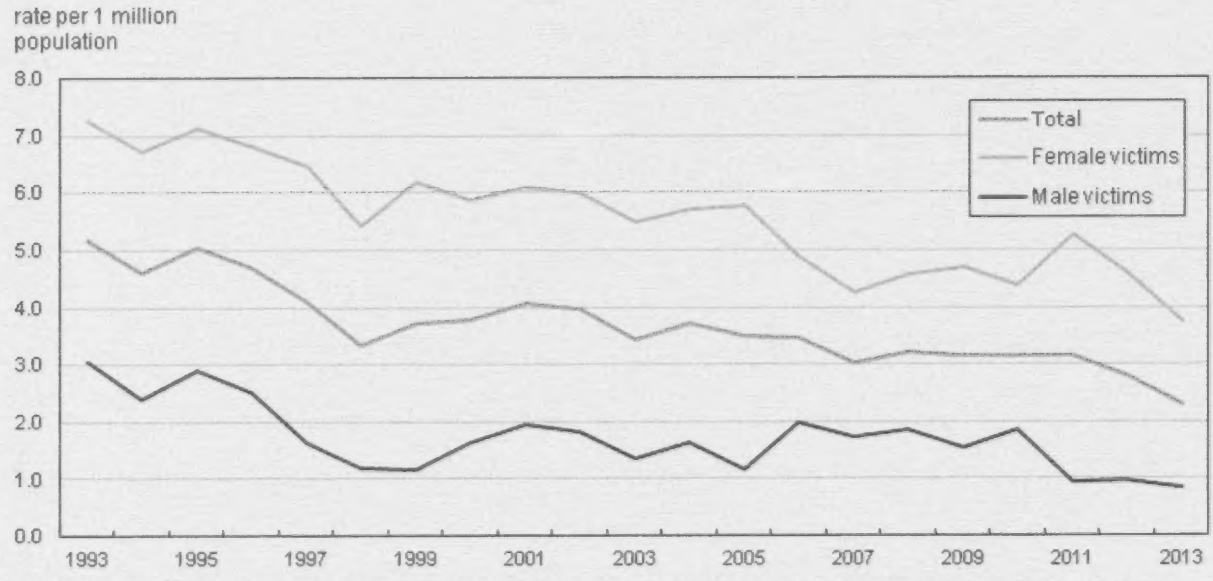
There was little difference in the reported motives for homicides against spouses (legally married and common-law) and those against dating partners.

## Intimate partner homicide stable in recent years

Similar to homicide rates overall in Canada,[9] intimate partner homicides decreased from 1993 to 2007 (Chart 2.7). In 2008, the rate of intimate partner homicides increased slightly to 3.22, and held steady at 3.1 victims per million population for the following three years. Since 2012, these rates have been below 3 victims per million population. There were approximately 2.31 intimate partner homicides per million population in 2013, half the rate recorded 20 years earlier (in 1993, there were 5.18 intimate partner homicides per million population).

Intimate partner homicide rates were higher for female than male victims across all age groups. In 2013, the rate of homicides involving a female intimate partner was 3.74 per million population, 4.5 times higher than the rate for those against a male intimate partner. Over the past 20 years, the rate of homicides committed against female intimate partners has fallen by almost half, dropping from 7.25 female victims per million population in 1993. For male victims of intimate partner homicide, the rate fell from 3.04 homicides per million to 0.83 per million between 1993 and 2013.

**Chart 2.7**
**Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1993 to 2013**




**Note:** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population. Population figures are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada's Demography Division. Intimate partners include married, separated and divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former) and dating partners (current and former). A small number of homicides committed against spouses and dating partners under 15 years of age are excluded in the rate calculations. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 to better meet changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the age or sex of the victim was unknown.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## The decrease in common assaults between intimate partners continues in 2013

Notwithstanding slight differences, most types of offences committed by intimate partners have been relatively stable since 2009. According to police-reported data, the number of common assaults, the most frequently occurring type of offence against intimate partners, has declined in recent years.

The rate of intimate partner common assault fell by 11%[10] (Table 2.8) between 2009 and 2013, driven by the drop in the rate of assaults against female intimate partners. The rate declined from 344.2 female victims per 100,000 population in 2009 to 298.2 female victims per 100,000 population five years later. Rates of common assault against male intimate partners decreased slightly throughout this period (-3 %). The decrease in common assaults may reflect changes in the incidence of this type of intimate partner violence or a change in the willingness of victims to report these crimes to the police.

For both men and women, rates of major assaults against intimate partners, including aggravated assault, and assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, decreased 6% between 2009 and 2013.

Rates of police-reported sexual assaults against female intimate partners rose 17% between 2009 and 2013, mainly because of an increase in level 1 sexual assaults defined as those in which the victim sustains little or no physical injury. For male victims, the rate of level 1 sexual assaults and the rate of levels 2 and 3 sexual assaults both dropped, by 3% and 34 % respectively between 2009 and 2013.

Attempted murders of intimate partners decreased 17 % between 2009 and 2013 with declines noted for both men (-20%) and women (-16%).

## Summary

Consistent with earlier findings on family violence and crime in general, violence between intimate partners was more prevalent against women, especially younger women. Dating violence accounted for 53% of police-reported incidents of intimate partner violence, while spousal violence represented 47%.

The rate of intimate partner homicides has been fairly stable in the last few years, a trend that continued in 2013. The escalation of an argument was the most common motive leading to homicide against an intimate partner.

Charges were laid or recommended against the accused in most incidents of intimate partner violence.

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## Notes

1. See Brennan (2011).

2. See Sinha (2013) for more information on the emotional or financial abuse of spouses.

3. Victimization rates are higher for women than for men; however it is not clear from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey if women are more likely to report crimes to the police. For this information, please refer to the results of the General Social Survey on Victimization, which measures self-reported crime regardless of whether it was reported to the police.

4. Common assault (level 1, *Criminal Code*, s. 266) is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

5. Major assault includes assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2, *Criminal Code*, s. 267) and aggravated assault (level 3, *Criminal Code*, s. 268), which involves wounding, maiming or disfiguring a victim, or endangering his or her life.

6. Includes violence committed by an accused whom the victim may or may not have known, such as an acquaintance, a friend, a family member, a stranger.

7. For incidents of intimate partner violence, police services in Ontario are unable to clear an incident through other means. These police services must either lay a charge or not clear the incident at all.

8. See Cotter (2014).

9. See the *Juristat* article "Homicide in Canada, 2013" (Cotter, 2014).

10. Analysis of the five-year trend database is limited to only those offences that have complete victim records and where the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey offence classification has remained constant over the five-year period.

## Detailed data tables

Table 2.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by relationship of accused to victim and sex of victim, Canada, 2013

| Relationship of accused to victim | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total victims | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Intimate partner | 71,457 | 41 | 18,850 | 12 | 90,307 | 27 |
| Current spouse[1] | 23,837 | 14 | 6,216 | 4 | 30,053 | 9 |
| Former spouse[2] | 9,484 | 5 | 2,508 | 2 | 11,992 | 4 |
| Current dating partner[3] | 23,327 | 13 | 6,141 | 4 | 29,468 | 9 |
| Former dating partner[4] | 13,958 | 8 | 3,519 | 2 | 17,477 | 5 |
| Other intimate partner[5] | 851 | 0.5 | 466 | 0.3 | 1,317 | 0.4 |
| Non-spousal family member[6] | 26,404 | 15 | 19,371 | 12 | 45,775 | 14 |
| Friend or acquaintance | 49,125 | 28 | 64,382 | 40 | 113,507 | 34 |
| Casual acquaintance[7] | 33,712 | 19 | 43,636 | 27 | 77,348 | 23 |
| Business relationship | 5,317 | 3 | 8,139 | 5 | 13,456 | 4 |
| Close friend[8] | 7,169 | 4 | 7,205 | 4 | 14,374 | 4 |
| Criminal relationship[9] | 348 | 0.2 | 1,779 | 1 | 2,127 | 0.6 |
| Authority figure[10] | 2,579 | 1 | 3,623 | 2 | 6,202 | 2 |
| Stranger | 27,062 | 16 | 58,097 | 36 | 85,159 | 25 |
| Unknown relationship[11] | 691 | ... | 169 | ... | 860 | ... |
| **Total** | **174,739** | **100** | **160,869** | **100** | **335,608** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Refers to violence committed by currently married persons and current common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by separated or divorced persons and former common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by current boyfriend or girlfriend. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Refers to violence committed by former boyfriends or girlfriends. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
5. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction. Includes victims ages 15 to 89.
6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grand-children, uncles, aunts, cousins and in laws.
7. Includes neighbours.
8. Includes roommates, which was added as a relationship category in 2012.
9. Refers to relationships with the victim that are based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
10. Refers to persons in a position of authority or trust who are not a family member. Includes reverse authority: new relationship category since 2012.
11. Refers to incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as "unknown."
**Note:** Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was known. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.2
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of relationship and age of victim, Canada, 2013

| | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current | Former | Current | Former | **Total victims of intimate partner violence[3]** |
| **Age of victim** | | | number | | |
| **Total** | **30,053** | **11,992** | **29,468** | **17,477** | **88,990** |
| | | | percent | | |
| 15 to 19 years | 11 | 8 | 50 | 30 | 100 |
| 20 to 24 years | 22 | 9 | 44 | 25 | 100 |
| 25 to 29 years | 31 | 12 | 36 | 21 | 100 |
| 30 to 34 years | 37 | 15 | 30 | 18 | 100 |
| 35 to 39 years | 41 | 18 | 26 | 16 | 100 |
| 40 to 44 years | 41 | 18 | 26 | 15 | 100 |
| 45 to 49 years | 43 | 17 | 26 | 15 | 100 |
| 50 to 54 years | 45 | 16 | 24 | 15 | 100 |
| 55 to 59 years | 51 | 15 | 20 | 14 | 100 |
| 60 to 64 years | 59 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 100 |
| 65 years and over | 70 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 100 |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former) and dating partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
**Note:** Excludes other intimate partners, since it is not known whether the relationship was current or former. Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.3
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2013

| Type of offence | Victims of intimate partner violence[1] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death | 58 | 0.1 | 12 | 0.1 | 70 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murders[2] | 79 | 0.1 | 26 | 0.1 | 105 | 0.1 |
| Sexual assaults[3] | 2,553 | 4 | 63 | 0.3 | 2,616 | 3 |
| Assault | 52,800 | 74 | 16,084 | 85.3 | 68,884 | 76 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[4] | 8,370 | 12 | 3,832 | 20.3 | 12,202 | 14 |
| Common assault (level 1)[5] | 44,091 | 62 | 12,165 | 64.5 | 56,256 | 62 |
| Other assaults[6] | 339 | 0.5 | 87 | 0.5 | 426 | 0.5 |
| Criminal harassment | 5,616 | 8 | 812 | 4.3 | 6,428 | 7 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 1,482 | 2 | 488 | 2.6 | 1,970 | 2 |
| Uttering threats | 6,297 | 9 | 1,172 | 6.2 | 7,469 | 8 |
| Robbery | 239 | 0.3 | 34 | 0.2 | 273 | 0.3 |
| Other violent offences[7] | 2,333 | 3 | 159 | 0.8 | 2,492 | 3 |
| **Total** | **71,457** | **100** | **18,850** | **100** | **90,307** | **100** |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Includes conspire to commit murder.
3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
6. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
7. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson and other violent crimes.
**Note:** Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship of the accused with the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** .Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.4
Victims of a police-reported violent crime, by type of intimate partner and most serious weapon present, Canada, 2013

| Type of weapon | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | Total victims of intimate partner violence[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Threats or no weapon[4] | 5,873 | 15 | 7,816 | 17 | 13,689 | 16 |
| Physical force | 26,817 | 70 | 32,911 | 71 | 59,728 | 71 |
| Weapon | 5,431 | 14 | 5,828 | 13 | 11,259 | 13 |
| Firearm | 256 | 0.7 | 256 | 0.5 | 512 | 0.6 |
| Knife[5] | 1,745 | 5 | 1,891 | 4 | 3,636 | 4 |
| Club/blunt instrument | 937 | 2 | 667 | 1 | 1,604 | 2 |
| Other weapon[6] | 2,493 | 7 | 3,014 | 6 | 5,507 | 7 |
| Unknown | 3,924 | ... | 1,707 | ... | 5,631 | ... |
| **Total** | **42,045** | **100** | **48,262** | **100** | **90,307** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.
5. Includes other piercing/cutting instruments, such as a hatchet, razor blade or arrow.
6. Includes other types of weapon such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, or poison.
**Note:** Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Unknown weapons are excluded from the calculation of percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.5
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by clearance status and type of intimate partner relationship, Canada, 2013

| Type of incident clearance status | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | Total victims of intimate partner violence[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Not cleared[4] | 4,916 | 12 | 7,081 | 15 | 11,997 | 13 |
| Cleared by charge | 29,704 | 71 | 34,742 | 72 | 64,446 | 71 |
| Cleared otherwise | 7,425 | 18 | 6,439 | 13 | 13,864 | 15 |
| Complainant requests charges not to be laid | 3,018 | 7 | 3,206 | 7 | 6,224 | 7 |
| Reasons beyond the control of police department | 3,058 | 7 | 746 | 2 | 3,804 | 4 |
| Departmental discretion | 1,104 | 3 | 2,188 | 5 | 3,292 | 4 |
| Other[5] | 245 | 0.6 | 299 | 0.6 | 544 | 0.6 |
| **Total** | **42,045** | **100** | **48,262** | **100** | **90,307** | **100** |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident or incidents where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident.
5. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
**Note:** In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.6
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2013

| Province and territory | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,257 | 552.1 | 315 | 143.4 | 1,572 | 351.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 224 | 372.7 | 55 | 97.1 | 279 | 239.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,987 | 486.3 | 578 | 148.2 | 2,565 | 321.2 |
| New Brunswick | 1,694 | 523.2 | 488 | 154.8 | 2,182 | 341.5 |
| Quebec | 15,529 | 452.3 | 4,219 | 124.8 | 19,748 | 289.8 |
| Ontario | 20,871 | 365.0 | 5,049 | 92.4 | 25,920 | 231.8 |
| Manitoba | 4,171 | 832.9 | 921 | 187.1 | 5,092 | 512.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 4,485 | 1,028.8 | 1,099 | 247.8 | 5,584 | 635.0 |
| Alberta | 10,045 | 623.2 | 2,887 | 173.1 | 12,932 | 394.3 |
| British Columbia | 9,531 | 488.7 | 2,828 | 147.8 | 12,359 | 319.8 |
| Yukon | 284 | 1,897.1 | 96 | 619.2 | 380 | 1,247.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 590 | 3,542.1 | 131 | 743.5 | 721 | 2,103.5 |
| Nunavut | 789 | 6,701.8 | 184 | 1,434.6 | 973 | 3,955.4 |
| **Canada** | **71,457** | **485.6** | **18,850** | **131.0** | **90,307** | **310.3** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Note:** Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded because of possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.7
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by type of relationship, Canada, 2003 to 2013

| | Spousal homicide victims | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Victims of a married spouse[1] | | Victims of a common-law partner[2] | | Total - Spousal homicide victims[3] | | Dating homicide victims[4] | | Same-sex intimate partner homicide victims[5] | | Total - Intimate partner homicides[6] | |
| Year | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 2003 | 52 | 58 | 26 | 29 | 78 | 88 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 100 |
| 2004 | 46 | 47 | 29 | 30 | 75 | 77 | 21 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 97 | 100 |
| 2005 | 35 | 38 | 41 | 44 | 76 | 82 | 16 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 93 | 100 |
| 2006 | 39 | 42 | 38 | 41 | 77 | 83 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 93 | 100 |
| 2007 | 28 | 34 | 34 | 41 | 62 | 76 | 16 | 20 | 4 | 5 | 82 | 100 |
| 2008 | 37 | 42 | 25 | 28 | 62 | 70 | 24 | 27 | 3 | 3 | 89 | 100 |
| 2009 | 32 | 36 | 32 | 36 | 64 | 73 | 22 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 88 | 100 |
| 2010 | 24 | 27 | 39 | 44 | 63 | 71 | 23 | 26 | 3 | 3 | 89 | 100 |
| 2011 | 33 | 37 | 32 | 36 | 65 | 72 | 20 | 22 | 5 | 6 | 90 | 100 |
| 2012 | 38 | 46 | 22 | 27 | 60 | 73 | 18 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 82 | 100 |
| 2013 | 21 | 31 | 22 | 32 | 43 | 63 | 23 | 34 | 2 | 3 | 68 | 100 |
| **2003 to 2013** | **385** | **40** | **340** | **35** | **725** | **76** | **207** | **22** | **28** | **3** | **960** | **100** |

1. Includes victims of a married, separated or divorced opposite sex spouse.
2. Includes victims of an opposite sex common-law partner (current or former).
3. Includes victims of a married, separated or divorced opposite sex spouse or an opposite sex common-law partner.
4. Includes victims of an opposite sex boyfriend or girlfriend (current or former) or an opposite sex other intimate partner.
5. Includes victims of a married, separated or divorced same-sex spouse and a same-sex common-law partner (current or former) as well as a same-sex boyfriend or girlfriend (current or former) and same-sex other intimate partner.
6. Includes victims of a married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners, dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners.

**Note:** Excludes victims of homicide younger than 15 years and victims for which the age or sex was unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.8
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence selected violent offences, by sex of victim, 2009 to 2013

| | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | Percent change in rate (2009 to 2013) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of offence** | # | rate[1] | # | rate[1] | # | rate[1] | # | rate[1] | # | rate[1] | |
| Male victims | 15,735 | 115.7 | 15,752 | 114.5 | 16,115 | 115.8 | 16,380 | 116.1 | 15,894 | 111.3 | -4 |
| Attempted murder[2] | 31 | 0.2 | 27 | 0.2 | 31 | 0.2 | 37 | 0.3 | 26 | 0.2 | -20 |
| Assault | 15,649 | 115.0 | 15,676 | 113.9 | 16,024 | 115.1 | 16,282 | 115.4 | 15,816 | 110.7 | -4 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 11,795 | 86.7 | 11,827 | 85.9 | 12,122 | 87.1 | 12,484 | 88.5 | 12,024 | 84.2 | -3 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3) | 3,854 | 28.3 | 3,849 | 28.0 | 3,902 | 28.0 | 3,798 | 26.9 | 3,792 | 26.5 | -6 |
| Sexual assault | 55 | 0.4 | 49 | 0.4 | 60 | 0.4 | 61 | 0.4 | 52 | 0.4 | -10 |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 42 | 0.3 | 36 | 0.3 | 45 | 0.3 | 51 | 0.4 | 43 | 0.3 | -3 |
| Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) | 13 | 0.1 | 13 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.1 | 10 | 0.1 | 9 | 0.1 | -34 |
| Female victims | 58,477 | 418.8 | 57,751 | 408.9 | 58,188 | 407.5 | 56,983 | 394.4 | 54,295 | 371.5 | -11 |
| Attempted murder[2] | 90 | 0.6 | 76 | 0.5 | 81 | 0.6 | 69 | 0.5 | 79 | 0.5 | -16 |
| Assault | 56,441 | 404.2 | 55,485 | 392.9 | 55,870 | 391.3 | 54,524 | 377.4 | 51,843 | 354.8 | -12 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 48,060 | 344.2 | 46,920 | 332.2 | 47,121 | 330.0 | 45,813 | 317.1 | 43,584 | 298.2 | -13 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3) | 8,381 | 60.0 | 8,565 | 60.6 | 8,749 | 61.3 | 8,711 | 60.3 | 8,259 | 56.5 | -6 |
| Sexual assault | 1,946 | 13.9 | 2,190 | 15.5 | 2,237 | 15.7 | 2,390 | 16.5 | 2,373 | 16.2 | 17 |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1,820 | 13.0 | 2,056 | 14.6 | 2,114 | 14.8 | 2,271 | 15.7 | 2,225 | 15.2 | 17 |
| Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) | 126 | 0.9 | 134 | 0.9 | 123 | 0.9 | 119 | 0.8 | 148 | 1.0 | 12 |
| **Total** | **74,212** | **269.2** | **73,503** | **263.6** | **74,303** | **263.5** | **73,363** | **256.9** | **70,189** | **242.9** | **-10** |
| Attempted murder[2] | 121 | 0.4 | 103 | 0.4 | 112 | 0.4 | 106 | 0.4 | 105 | 0.4 | -17 |
| Assault | 72,090 | 261.5 | 71,161 | 255.2 | 71,894 | 254.9 | 70,806 | 247.9 | 67,659 | 234.1 | -10 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 59,855 | 217.1 | 58,747 | 210.7 | 59,243 | 210.1 | 58,297 | 204.1 | 55,608 | 192.4 | -11 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3) | 12,235 | 44.4 | 12,414 | 44.5 | 12,651 | 44.9 | 12,509 | 43.8 | 12,051 | 41.7 | -6 |
| Sexual assault | 2,001 | 7.3 | 2,239 | 8.0 | 2,297 | 8.1 | 2,451 | 8.6 | 2,425 | 8.4 | 16 |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1,862 | 6.8 | 2,092 | 7.5 | 2,159 | 7.7 | 2,322 | 8.1 | 2,268 | 7.8 | 16 |
| Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) | 139 | 0.5 | 147 | 0.5 | 138 | 0.5 | 129 | 0.5 | 157 | 0.5 | 8 |

1. Rates per 100,000 population.
2. Includes conspire to commit murder.

**Note:** The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database represents 99% of police services in Canada. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded because due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

## Section 3: Family violence against children and youth

by Tamy Superle

Child maltreatment,[1] including violence, is a significant public health issue (Afifi 2011) and can cause harm to the individual victims, their families and friends, as well as to society as a whole (Fox and Shonkoff 2012). Violence and maltreatment of children and youth can have immediate consequences such as physical injury, as well as long-term physical, psychological, and emotional effects (Fang et al. 2012; Afifi 2011; Tanaka et al. 2011; Murray and Farrington 2010). Additionally, research indicates that violence against children and youth may contribute to decreased productivity of the economy[2] and consequently have negative financial implications on society as a whole (Fang et al. 2012; Bowlus et al. 2003).

Not all criminal victimization by family members is reported to police. This can be partly explained by the fact that infants and younger children are not capable of reporting victimization themselves. Additionally, children and youth of all ages may be reluctant to report family violence for many reasons including fear of reprisal and/or dependency on the perpetrator (Schaeffer et al. 2011; United Nations 2011; AuCoin 2005). Therefore, the victimization of children and youth within the family may be less likely to be reported to the police than non-familial victimization. It is difficult to know exactly the extent of underreporting, but research suggests that violence against children is more likely to be underreported than violence against older victims (Cotter and Beaupré 2014; United Nations 2011; AuCoin 2005).

There is little information available on children's reporting of criminal victimization. This is partially because most victimization surveys, such as the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, do not interview children under 15.[3] However, the 2014 GSS on Victimization[4] has been expanded to include detailed questions to participants about their experiences of violence as children.[5]

While police-reported data may be an underestimate of violence against children, especially for the very young, they still provide important insights and information about those cases that do come to the attention of police. The current analysis examines police-reported family violence using data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey. All types of *Criminal Code* violent violations against children and youth are included in this analysis; however forms of child abuse that are not a *Criminal Code* offence are not included, for example emotional abuse and various forms of neglect.[6]

### Police-reported violent victimization rates lower for children and youth than for adults, while sexual assault rates are higher

In 2013, police reported just over 58,000 child and youth[7] victims of violence (Table 3.1) which represented a rate of 848.8 victims per 100,000 population under the age of 18. As has been the case historically, violent victimization rates for children and youth were slightly lower than those of the adult population (995.3 victims per 100,000).

The exception to this was police-reported sexual offences which were more likely to occur among children and youth than among those 18 years of age and over. More specifically, in 2013, the rate of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth was five times higher than the rate recorded for adults (202.0 victims per 100,000 versus 40.4 victims per 100,000). This difference was most prevalent for level 1 sexual assault[8] with a rate of 141.5 per 100,000 for children and youth compared to a rate of 37.5 per 100,000 for adults.

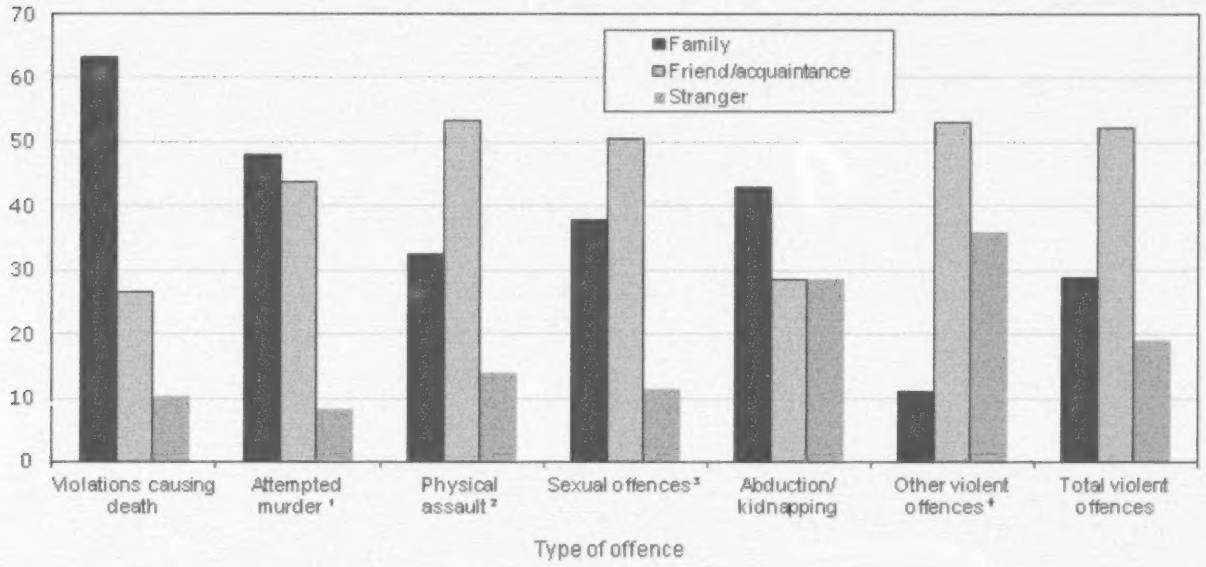
### One-quarter of those accused of violence against children and youth are family members

Overall, police reported about 16,700 child and youth victims of family-related violence in 2013. This represented a rate of 243.5 victims of family violence per 100,000 population under the age of 18.

Similar to police-reported violent crime in general, the majority of violence against children and youth is committed by someone known to the victim (81%). More specifically, of those accused of violence against children and youth in 2013, over half (52%) were acquaintances or friends,[9] while more than one-quarter (29%) were family members[10] and 19% were strangers (Chart 3.1).

**Chart 3.1**
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of accused-victim relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2013**

percent of victims




1. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
2. Physical assault includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging a firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
3. Sexual offences include sexual assaults levels 1, 2, 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
4. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson-disregard for human life, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses. Friend/acquaintance includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, roomates, dating partners, authority figures, reverse authority figures, criminal relationships and business relationships. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

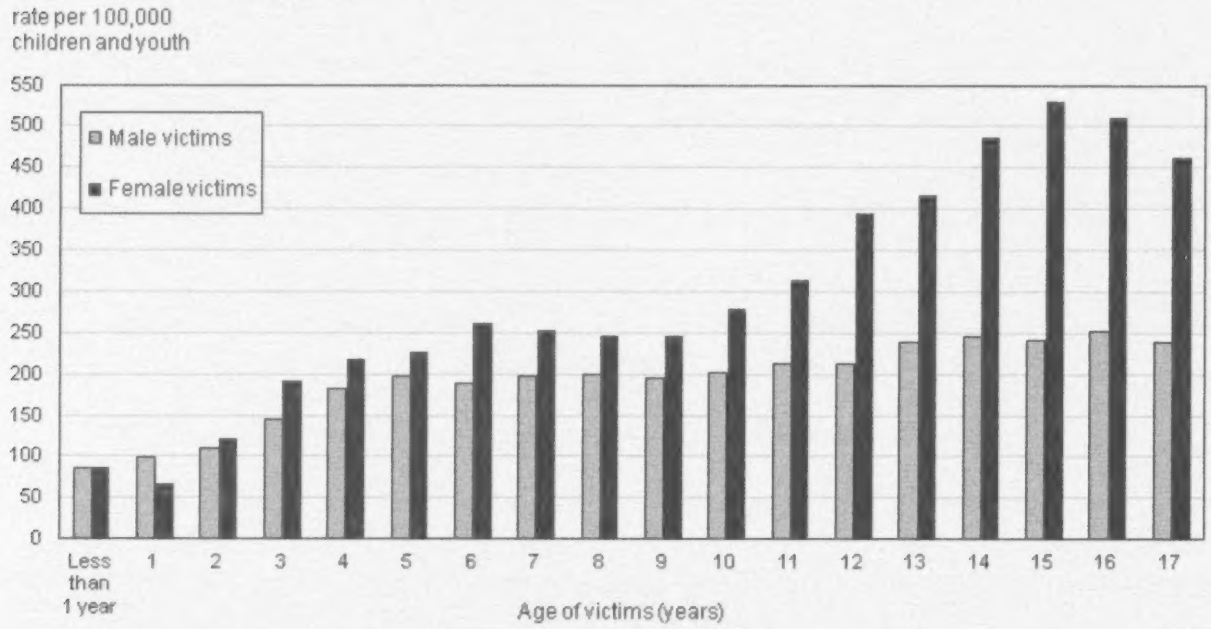
While the majority of children and youth were victimized by someone known to them, the type of relationship between the victim and the accused varies by offence. For instance, the majority of violations causing death committed against children and youth were perpetrated by family members (63%) (Chart 3.1). Family members were also the most common accused in both attempted murders (48%), and abductions and kidnappings[11] (43%). In contrast, physical assaults, sexual offences, and other violent offences (such as criminal harassment and uttering threats) against children and youth were more often perpetrated by friends or acquaintances.

In 2013, family members most often accused of violence against children and youth were parents (60%) (Table 3.2). This is especially true for incidents of violence involving children under the age of four, for which parents accounted for 79% of accused family members. The proportion of accused parents decreased as children grew older.

## Police-reported family violence rates increase as children grow older

Similar to police-reported violence against children in general, the rate of police-reported family violence committed against children and youth generally tended to increase with age. In 2013, as in previous years, younger children generally continued to have the lowest rates of family violence while youth typically had the highest rates (Chart 3.2). However, very young children may not have the ability to report their victimization themselves and as such the observed lower rates for young children may be an underestimation.

**Chart 3.2**
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by age of victim, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, half, step, foster), extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Even though young children had lower rates of police-reported victimization, when they were victimized they were more likely to be victimized by a family member. In 2013, 7 in 10 victims (71%) of police-reported violence who were under the age of four were victimized by a family member. The proportion of children victimized by a family member began to gradually decrease at the age of four, coinciding with the age when the majority of children begin to participate more independently in activities outside of the home, such as school, clubs, and sports.

## Girls are more likely than boys to be the victims of family violence

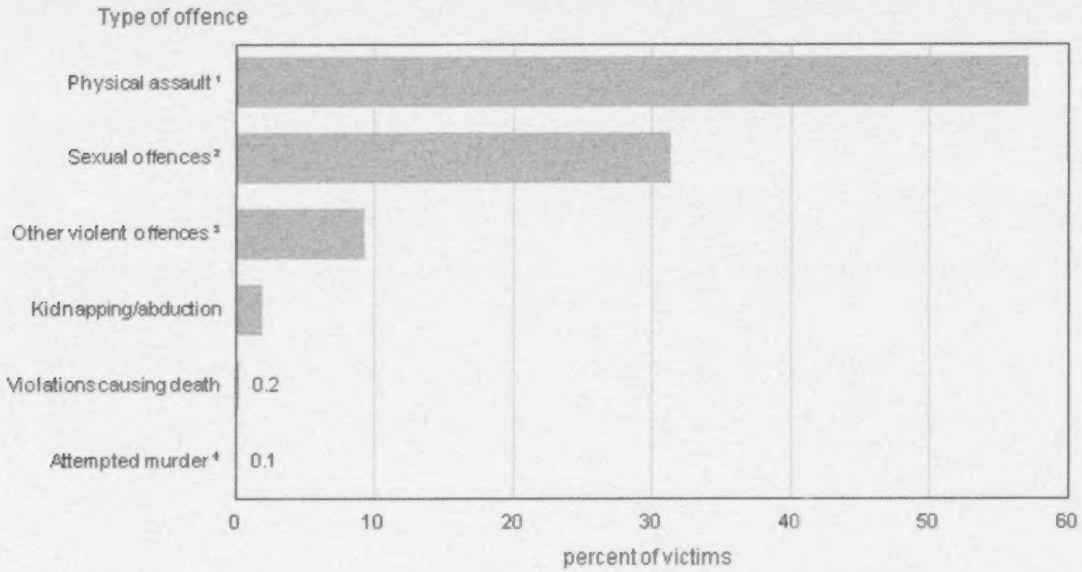
As in previous years, girls (relative to boys) continued to be victimized at a higher rate by family members in 2013. More specifically, the rate of police-reported victimization by family members was about 1.5 times higher for girls than for boys (298.2 per 100,000 versus 191.5 per 100,000) (Table 3.3). Starting at the age of two, girls had a consistently higher rate of victimization than boys. The difference in victimization rates peaked at the age of 15 when the rate for girls was more than double the rate for boys (529.7 per 100,000 versus 240.3 per 100,000).

Girls experience higher rates of family-related victimization for nearly every type of offence, but especially so for sexual victimization. Girls were four times more likely than boys to be the victim of a police-reported sexual offence committed by a family member in 2013 (125.0 per 100,000 versus 30.2 per 100,000).

## Physical assault is the most common form of family violence against children and youth

Family violence against children and youth can take many forms, but the most common type of victimization reported to the police in 2013 was physical assault. In total, more than half (57%) of child and youth victims of police-reported family violence were victims of physical assault (Chart 3.3). Reflecting the fact that the majority of these physical assaults were classified as level 1 (common assault), less than 4 in 10 (37%) victims sustained a physical injury as a result of the incident.[12] Of those who did sustain injuries, 96% were minor requiring little or no medical treatment (e.g. first aid).

**Chart 3.3**
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by type of offence, Canada, 2013**




1. Physical assault includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
2. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
3. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
4. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.

**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

It is important to note, however, that physical injury does not have to be inflicted in order for there to be significant harm to the victim (Fang et al. 2012; Fox and Shonkoff 2012; Tanaka et al. 2011). To date, there has been considerable research indicating that childhood maltreatment can have prolonged negative effects on emotional and physical wellbeing throughout the life course of the victim regardless of the infliction of physical injury (Fang et al. 2012; Fox and Shonkoff 2012; Tanaka et al. 2011). Furthermore, family-related victimization, especially if it is ongoing, can create stress and anxiety that may affect long-term brain development in children and youth, as well as potentially impacting their ability to relate to others and contribute positively to their community (Fox and Shonkoff 2012). These negative effects can also be experienced by those who witness family violence (Sinha 2012; Moss 2003).

## Physical and sexual assaults by family members down overall for children and youth

Trends in police-reported physical and sexual assaults of children and youth can be examined for a five-year period using the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Trend database, which covers virtually all police services in Canada.[13] After remaining relatively stable from 2009 to 2011, the overall rate of physical assaults committed against children and youth by a family member decreased for the second consecutive year, dropping 13% between 2011 and 2013 (Table 3.4). The rate of police-reported physical assault for both girls and boys decreased between 2009 and 2013, although the rate for girls was slightly higher than for boys over that time.

The rate of police-reported sexual assault for girls and boys in which a family member was accused decreased 12% between 2009 and 2013. Despite the decrease, girls still experienced a higher rate of sexual assault than boys. In every year from 2009 to 2013 the overall rate of sexual assault for girls was at least 3.5 times higher than for boys.

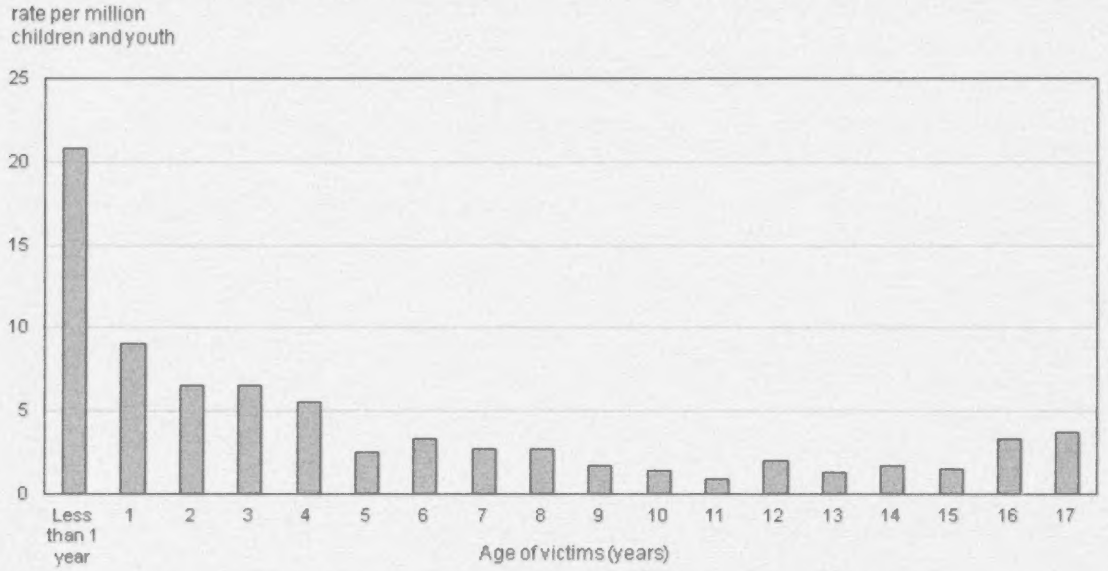
There are a number of sexual violations within the *Criminal Code* that, by definition, apply only to children and youth and these include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer/agreement or arrangement, and making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth. For these violations, information on relationship is not always provided. However, it is notable that overall, these specific violations increased in 2013 (Boyce, Cotter and Perreault 2014).[14]

## Six in ten child and youth victims of homicide were killed by a family member

Since 2003, 319 children and youth were victims of familial homicide and accounted for one in five family-related homicides. Between 2003 and 2013, 59% of all children and youth victims of homicide were victims of family-related homicide compared to 30% of adult victims.

Children were more at risk of being the victims of familial homicide than youth. Victims of homicide 11 years old and younger were more often killed by a family member than a non-family member. In particular, between 2003 and 2013, those under the age of one were most at risk to be killed by a family member (Chart 3.4). Since 2003, one in five (22%) infant victims of family-related homicide were killed on the day they were born.

**Chart 3.4**
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age of victim, Canada, 2003 to 2013**




**Note:** Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Children aged 1 to 4 were also at higher risk of being victims of familial homicide than older children, with rates generally decreasing with age until late adolescence when rates increased. Because homicides are the most severe type of violence and are often difficult to hide from others, homicide rates may not be as prone to underestimation as other types of family violence (Sinha 2012).

## Strangulation, suffocation or drowning most common cause of death in the homicides of children and youth

Overall, the most common method of familial homicides of children and youth between 2003 and 2013 was strangulation, suffocation or drowning (27%) (Table 3.5). In comparison, strangulation, suffocation or drowning was considerably less common in non-familial homicide, accounting for 7% of homicides of children and youth. Stabbing, which was the most common method of homicide (familial and non-familial) for all adults (34%) as well as for children and youth killed by non-family members (36%), accounted for 16% of familial homicide against children and youth.

Using the Homicide Survey, it is possible to examine the motivating factors that underlie familial homicide. Between 2003 and 2013, the most common motive in familial homicides of children and youth was frustration of the accused (62%) (Table 3.6). This was especially true for homicides of children 6 years of age or younger, in which about two-thirds (67%) of familial homicides were motivated by frustration. For homicide against youth aged 12 to 17, frustration was a less common motive, accounting for just over one-quarter (28%) of all homicides committed by family members. The next highest reported motivation for familial homicides of 12-to-17 year olds was arguments (21%). Among this 12-to-17 year-old age group, 21% of homicides had no apparent motive.

## Saskatchewan records the highest rate of family violence against children and youth among the provinces

Jurisdictional differences in reporting requirements and variation in child welfare statutes[15] can contribute to variations in provincial and territorial rates of police-reported violence against children and youth (Trocmé et al. 2010). Despite possible jurisdictional differences, the geographical trends for family violence generally reflect the trends for other types of violent crime (Perreault 2013).

Provincially, Saskatchewan had the highest rate of child and youth victims of family violence at 465.3 per 100,000, followed by Manitoba (386.6 per 100,000) and New Brunswick (324.2 per 100,000) (Table 3.7). The provinces with the lowest rates were Ontario (166.2 per 100,000) followed by British Columbia (210.4 per 100,000) and Alberta (223.8 per 100,000). These three provinces were also the only provincial jurisdictions to record rates that were below the national rate.

The territories have the highest rates of police-reported family violence against children and youth in the country. All three territories had rates that were more than double the national rate with Nunavut having the highest rate at six times the overall rate (1,474.8 per 100,000 versus 243.5 per 100,000).

Overall, Saguenay had the highest rate of police-reported family violence against children and youth among all census metropolitan areas (CMAs)[16] in the country at 467.7 child and youth victims per 100,000 (Table 3.8). The three largest CMAs, Toronto, Montréal, and Vancouver, all had rates below the national rate. The combined rate of police-reported family violence against children and youth in CMAs is considerably lower than the combined rate in non-CMAs (183.6 per 100,000 compared to 382.9 per 100,000).

## Charges laid in less than half of family violence incidents against children and youth

Due to the vulnerability of young victims, every province and territory has developed mandatory reporting laws that require people to notify the authorities of any suspected child abuse (Trocmé et al. 2010). However, given the hidden nature of some forms of familial violence, it is often difficult for others to detect it and subsequently report it. As a result, the violence may continue in the absence of intervention (Kellogg and the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect 2007; Flaherty and Sege 2005).

When family-related violence against children and youth does come to the attention of authorities various organizations including police services, child welfare agencies, and other relevant organizations work together in order to investigate the incident and minimize further trauma to the child and families (Regan n.d.). For example, Children's Advocacy Centres (CAC) allows children and their caregivers to have a single point of contact with law enforcement professionals, child welfare authorities and other forms of support (Boyes 2011).

In order to clear an incident, police may charge an accused or may choose to deal with the incident in another way, such as through departmental discretion.[17] Not all incidents are cleared however; for example, an incident may not be cleared when there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge against a suspect.[18] In 2013, police laid or recommended charges in 45% of incidents of family violence against children and youth, while another 29% of incidents were cleared in another way, such as through departmental discretion. In comparison, a larger proportion of family violence incidents (59%) involving adult victims aged 18 years and over resulted in charges being laid or recommended.[19]

## Summary

This section examined police-reported family violence against children and youth. In 2013, one-quarter of all child and youth victims reported by police were victimized by a family member. Among the youngest victims, the vast majority had been victimized by a family member.

Girls were more likely than boys to be victims of police-reported family violence, especially sexual assault. Almost two-thirds of children and youth who were victims of family violence did not suffer physical injury.

Rates of police-reported family violence increased with the age of the child with the exception of familial homicides, which were more common in younger age groups. Overall, there has been a decrease in the rates of both family-related physical and sexual assaults among girls and boys over the last five years.

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## Notes

1. Child maltreatment is a broad category that has been defined by the World Health Organizations (WHO) as: physical and emotional mistreatment, sexual abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, child exploitation, and exposure to intimate partner violence (WHO 2006, 2010).

2. To estimate the economic burden of child maltreatment the following are taken into account: childhood health care costs, adult medical costs, productivity losses, child welfare costs, criminal justice costs, and special education costs.

3. The GSS on Victimization captures data on Canadians aged 15 years and older. Hence, some information is available for older youths aged 15 to 17, though it is not releasable due to small counts.

4. Data from this cycle is scheduled to be released starting in 2015.

5. The 2014 GSS on Victimization includes questions about whether the survey respondent experienced physical or sexual abuse from an adult when they were younger than 15 years of age as well as if they had witnessed family violence in their household as a child. It also includes questions to respondents with at least one child who report they have been victims of spousal violence (from current spouse/partner or an ex-spouse/partner) on whether the child(ren) in the household had ever seen or heard one or more incidents of spousal violence.

6. There are two forms of neglect that are *Criminal Code* offences and therefore included in this analysis. These are 'Duty of persons to provide necessaries' and 'Abandoning child'.

7. In this *Juristat* children and youth are those under 18 years of age. Children are defined as those 11 years of age and younger and youth are those who are 12 through 17 years of age.

8. Level 1 assault involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim.

9. This includes an acquaintance or friend of the victim as well as an acquaintance or friend of the family or the parents.

10. This includes parent, step-parent, foster parent, sibling, grandparent or extended family member.

11. This category includes the parent-specific offence of parental abduction.

12. This includes incidents that are unlikely to result in physical injury due to the nature of the offence, for example luring a child via a computer.

13. The UCR2 Trend Database (2009 to 2013) represents police services covering 99% of the population of Canada. Analysis of this five-year trend database is limited to a subset of offences. Offences where the victim information reported is complete are included in the subset, while incomplete records are excluded. In addition, offences are limited to those which have been classified in a consistent manner over the five-year period. For the purpose of this *Juristat* article, the offences included in the trend analysis include physical assault (levels 1, 2, and 3) and sexual assault (levels 1, 2, and 3).

14. For further information on sexual offences against children and youth, regardless of relationship, see Cotter and Beaupré 2014.

15. In some jurisdictions child welfare statutes limit investigations to those under 16, while others extend to all those under 19 years of age.

16. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

17. An example of departmental discretion would include giving the accused a warning, caution or a referral to a community-based program.

18. The incident may not be cleared at the time of reporting to the UCR Survey, but may be cleared by police at a later time. Updates to the clearance status on the UCR Survey are made accordingly.

19. Where an incident includes multiple victims, the incident clearance is counted once for each victim.

## Detailed data tables

Table 3.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2013

| Type of offence | Adult victims (18 years and older) | | Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years) | | Children and youth victims by age group | | | | | | Total victims |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Less than 3 years | | 3 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | |
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number |
| **Violations causing death/attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder** | **1,123** | **4.03** | **108** | **1.57** | **20** | **1.76** | **29** | **0.86** | **59** | **2.48** | **1,231** |
| Murder, manslaughter, infanticide | 455 | 1.63 | 42 | 0.61 | 10 | 0.88 | 12 | 0.36 | 20 | 0.84 | 497 |
| Criminal negligence causing death | 59 | 0.21 | 18 | 0.26 | 6 | 0.53 | 5 | 0.15 | 7 | 0.29 | 77 |
| Other related offences causing death | 4 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder | 605 | 2.17 | 48 | 0.7 | 4 | 0.35 | 12 | 0.36 | 32 | 1.35 | 653 |
| **Sexual offences** | **11,251** | **40.4** | **13,891** | **202** | **216** | **19.01** | **5,185** | **154.1** | **8,490** | **357.5** | **25,142** |
| Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated | 108 | 0.4 | 24 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.1 | 20 | 0.8 | 132 |
| Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm | 273 | 1 | 85 | 1.2 | 2 | 0.2 | 20 | 0.6 | 63 | 2.7 | 358 |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 10,453 | 37.5 | 9,727 | 141.5 | 141 | 12.4 | 3,434 | 102.1 | 6,152 | 259 | 20,180 |
| Sexual interference | ... | ... | 2,491 | 36.2 | 53 | 4.7 | 1,309 | 38.9 | 1,129 | 47.5 | 2,491 |
| Invitation to sexual touching | ... | ... | 503 | 7.3 | 8 | 0.7 | 203 | 6 | 292 | 12.3 | 503 |
| Luring a child via a computer | ... | ... | 544 | 7.9 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 2.9 | 448 | 18.9 | 544 |
| Incest | 38 | 0.1 | 122 | 1.8 | 7 | 0.6 | 44 | 1.3 | 71 | 3 | 160 |
| Sexual exploitation | 18 | 0.1 | 106 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 106 | 4.5 | 124 |
| Voyeurism | 342 | 1.2 | 166 | 2.4 | 3 | 0.3 | 32 | 1 | 131 | 5.5 | 508 |
| Corrupting children | ... | ... | 56 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0.8 | 28 | 1.2 | 56 |
| Making sexually explicit material available to children | ... | ... | 52 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0.4 | 37 | 1.6 | 52 |
| Anal intercourse | 19 | 0.1 | 13 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0.5 | 32 |
| Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| **Assaults** | **181,899** | **653** | **29,466** | **428.6** | **909** | **80** | **6,859** | **203.9** | **21,698** | **913.7** | **211,365** |
| Assault (level 3) - aggravated | 2,798 | 10 | 250 | 3.6 | 61 | 5.4 | 19 | 0.6 | 170 | 7.2 | 3,048 |
| Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm | 38,286 | 137.4 | 6,114 | 88.9 | 191 | 16.8 | 1,409 | 41.9 | 4,514 | 190.1 | 44,400 |
| Assault (level 1) | 130,682 | 469.1 | 22,678 | 329.8 | 612 | 53.9 | 5,337 | 158.6 | 16,729 | 704.4 | 153,360 |
| Pointing a firearm | 500 | 1.8 | 108 | 1.6 | 3 | 0.3 | 23 | 0.7 | 82 | 3.5 | 608 |
| Unlawfully causing bodily harm | 362 | 1.3 | 65 | 0.9 | 7 | 0.6 | 11 | 0.3 | 47 | 2 | 427 |
| Criminal negligence causing bodily harm | 141 | 0.5 | 76 | 1.1 | 24 | 2.1 | 22 | 0.7 | 30 | 1.3 | 217 |
| Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence | 137 | 0.5 | 17 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.6 | 154 |
| Discharge firearm with intent | 163 | 0.6 | 37 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.2 | 8 | 0.2 | 27 | 1.1 | 200 |
| Trap likely to or causing bodily harm | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Other assaults[2] | 8,827 | 31.7 | 121 | 1.8 | 9 | 0.8 | 28 | 0.8 | 84 | 3.5 | 8,948 |

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2013 (continued)

| | Adult victims (18 years and older) | | Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years) | | Children and youth victims by age group | | | | | | Total victims |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Less than 3 years | | 3 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | |
| **Type of offence** | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number |
| **Deprivation of freedom** | **2,760** | **9.9** | **737** | **10.7** | **68** | **6** | **303** | **9** | **366** | **15.4** | **3,497** |
| Kidnapping and forcible confinement | 2,760 | 9.9 | 375 | 5.5 | 13 | 1.1 | 68 | 2 | 294 | 12.4 | 3,135 |
| Abduction/Removal of child from Canada | ... | ... | 362 | 5.3 | 55 | 4.8 | 235 | 7 | 72 | 3 | 362 |
| **Other violent offences** | **80,215** | **288** | **14,158** | **205.9** | **309** | **27.2** | **1,745** | **51.9** | **12,104** | **509.7** | **94,373** |
| Criminal harassment | 13,408 | 48.1 | 1,795 | 26.1 | 7 | 1 | 183 | 5.4 | 1,605 | 67.6 | 15,203 |
| Uttering threats | 40,324 | 144.8 | 6,730 | 97.9 | 228 | 20 | 1,205 | 36 | 5,297 | 223 | 47,054 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 6,594 | 23.7 | 505 | 7.3 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 1.2 | 463 | 19.5 | 7,099 |
| Trafficking in persons | 49 | 0.2 | 21 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0.9 | 70 |
| Other[3] | 19,840 | 71.2 | 5,107 | 74.3 | 74 | 6.5 | 315 | 9.4 | 4,718 | 198.7 | 24,947 |
| **Total** | **277,248** | **995.3** | **58,360** | **848.8** | **1,522** | **134** | **14,121** | **419.7** | **42,717** | **1,798.7** | **335,608** |

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes assaults against police and other peace officers, as well as other types of assaults such as administering noxious thing.
3. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and age group, Canada, 2013

| Accused-victim relationship | Victim's age group | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than 1 year | | 1 to 3 years | | 4 to 6 years | | 7 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | Total | |
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Parent[1] | 292 | 90 | 1,059 | 76 | 1,611 | 66 | 2,649 | 62 | 4,513 | 54 | 10,124 | 60 |
| Sibling[2] | 21 | 6 | 139 | 10 | 359 | 15 | 771 | 18 | 1,584 | 19 | 2,874 | 17 |
| Extended family[3] | 12 | 4 | 195 | 14 | 473 | 19 | 847 | 20 | 1,715 | 21 | 3,242 | 19 |
| Spouse[4] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 502 | 6 | 502 | 3 |
| **Total** | **325** | **100** | **1,393** | **100** | **2,443** | **100** | **4,267** | **100** | **8,314** | **100** | **16,742** | **100** |

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' (including 'step-child') and was therefore recoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent').
2. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
4. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of the victim and type of offence, Canada, 2013

| Type of offence | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Violations causing death | 14 | 0.42 | 17 | 0.48 | 31 | 0.45 |
| Attempted murder[2] | 14 | 0.42 | 9 | 0.26 | 23 | 0.33 |
| Physical assault[3] | 4,776 | 142.6 | 4,795 | 135.9 | 9,571 | 139.2 |
| Sexual offences[4] | 4,185 | 125.0 | 1,065 | 30.2 | 5,250 | 76.4 |
| Kidnapping/abduction | 173 | 5.2 | 141 | 4.0 | 314 | 4.6 |
| Other violent crimes[5] | 824 | 24.6 | 729 | 20.7 | 1,553 | 22.6 |
| **Total** | **9,986** | **298.2** | **6,756** | **191.5** | **16,742** | **243.5** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
3. Physical assaults includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
4. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
5. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence for selected violent offences, by sex of victim, 2009 to 2013

| | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | Percent change in rate (2009 to 2013) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type of offence | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | |
| **Male victim** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical assault | 5,273 | 149.9 | 5,283 | 150.4 | 5,306 | 151.1 | 5,009 | 142.8 | 4,678 | 133.6 | -10.8 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 4,258 | 121.0 | 4,190 | 119.3 | 4,180 | 119.0 | 3,993 | 113.9 | 3,702 | 105.8 | -12.6 |
| Major assault, levels 2 and 3 | 1,015 | 28.9 | 1,093 | 31.1 | 1,126 | 32.1 | 1,016 | 29.0 | 976 | 27.9 | -3.4 |
| Sexual assault | 856 | 24.3 | 808 | 23.0 | 737 | 21.0 | 837 | 23.9 | 733 | 20.9 | -13.9 |
| Sexual assault, level 1 | 851 | 24.2 | 801 | 22.8 | 726 | 20.7 | 832 | 23.7 | 725 | 20.7 | -14.4 |
| Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3 | 5 | 0.1 | 7 | 0.2 | 11 | 0.3 | 5 | 0.1 | 8 | 0.2 | 60.8 |
| **Female victim** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical assault | 5,351 | 160.1 | 5,428 | 162.8 | 5,383 | 161.6 | 5,101 | 153.3 | 4,666 | 140.4 | -12.3 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 4,445 | 133.0 | 4,463 | 133.8 | 4,446 | 133.4 | 4,151 | 124.8 | 3,759 | 113.1 | -14.9 |
| Major assault, levels 2 and 3 | 906 | 27.1 | 965 | 28.9 | 937 | 28.1 | 950 | 28.6 | 907 | 27.3 | 0.7 |
| Sexual assault | 3,285 | 98.3 | 3,395 | 101.8 | 3,138 | 94.2 | 3,100 | 93.2 | 2,877 | 86.6 | -11.9 |
| Sexual assault, level 1 | 3,257 | 97.4 | 3,360 | 100.8 | 3,115 | 93.5 | 3,063 | 92.1 | 2,855 | 85.9 | -11.8 |
| Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3 | 28 | 0.8 | 35 | 1.0 | 23 | 0.7 | 37 | 1.1 | 22 | 0.7 | -20.9 |
| **Total** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical assault | 10,624 | 154.8 | 10,711 | 156.4 | 10,689 | 156.2 | 10,110 | 147.9 | 9,344 | 136.9 | -11.6 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 8,703 | 126.8 | 8,653 | 126.4 | 8,626 | 126.0 | 8,144 | 119.2 | 7,461 | 109.3 | -13.8 |
| Major assault, levels 2 and 3 | 1,921 | 28.0 | 2,058 | 30.1 | 2,063 | 30.1 | 1,966 | 28.8 | 1,883 | 27.6 | -1.4 |
| Sexual assault | 4,141 | 60.4 | 4,203 | 61.4 | 3,875 | 56.6 | 3,937 | 57.6 | 3,610 | 52.9 | -12.3 |
| Sexual assault, level 1 | 4,108 | 59.9 | 4,161 | 60.8 | 3,841 | 56.1 | 3,895 | 57.0 | 3,580 | 52.5 | -12.4 |
| Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3 | 33 | 0.5 | 42 | 0.6 | 34 | 0.5 | 42 | 0.6 | 30 | 0.4 | -8.6 |

1. Rate per 100,000 population.
**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database represents 99% of police services in Canada. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 3.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age group of the victim and cause of death, Canada, 2003 to 2013

| | Victim's age group | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than 1 year | | 1 to 3 years | | 4 to 6 years | | 7 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | Total | |
| Cause of death | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % |
| Strangulation, suffocation or drowning | 25 | 32 | 21 | 24 | 10 | 23 | 11 | 31 | 15 | 23 | 82 | 27 |
| Beating | 20 | 25 | 37 | 43 | 10 | 23 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 75 | 24 |
| Stabbing | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 10 | 28 | 22 | 34 | 50 | 16 |
| Shaken Baby Syndrome[1] | 22 | 28 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 10 |
| Shooting | 0 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 23 | 28 | 9 |
| Poisoning or lethal injection | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| Other[2] | 9 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 6 |
| Unknown | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 0 | ... | 10 | ... |
| **Total** | **83** | **100** | **88** | **100** | **45** | **100** | **39** | **100** | **64** | **100** | **319** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. 'Shaken Baby Syndrome' refers to homicides committed against a baby (under the age of three years) where the primary cause of death resulted from being shaken, tossed or thrown.
2. Includes causes of death not otherwise stated. Examples include exposure/hypothermia, deaths caused by motor vehicles, starvation, heat, etc.
**Note:** Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age group of the victim and motive, Canada, 2003 to 2013

| | Victim's age group | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than 1 year | | 1 to 3 years | | 4 to 6 years | | 7 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | Total | |
| Motive | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % | number | % |
| Frustration | 51 | 67 | 61 | 76 | 32 | 76 | 21 | 62 | 17 | 28 | 182 | 62 |
| No apparent motive[1] | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 13 | 21 | 28 | 10 |
| Argument or quarrel | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 21 | 22 | 8 |
| Concealment[2] | 21 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 7 |
| Jealousy | 0 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| Other[3] | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 4 |
| Revenge | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 4 |
| Unknown | 7 | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | 5 | ... | 3 | ... | 26 | ... |
| **Total** | **83** | **100** | **88** | **100** | **45** | **100** | **39** | **100** | **64** | **100** | **319** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, mental illness and dementia.
2. Concealment includes homicides committed to hide evidence of something, for example a pregnancy or birth of a child, or evidence of another criminal offence. This is the most common motive for infanticides.
3. Other motives can include financial gain, mercy killing, and sexual violence.
**Note:** Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.7
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by province and territory, 2013

| Province and territory | Victims of family violence[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[2] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 298 | 319.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 71 | 262.8 |
| Nova Scotia | 502 | 302.2 |
| New Brunswick | 443 | 324.2 |
| Quebec | 4,679 | 311.2 |
| Ontario | 4,445 | 166.2 |
| Manitoba | 1,077 | 386.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,151 | 465.3 |
| Alberta | 1,970 | 223.8 |
| British Columbia | 1,762 | 210.4 |
| Yukon | 43 | 577.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 111 | 1,005.1 |
| Nunavut | 190 | 1,474.8 |
| **Canada** | **16,742** | **243.5** |

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses.
2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.8
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2013

| Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2] | Victims of family violence[3] | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[4] |
| Saguenay | 133 | 467.7 |
| Trois-Rivières | 94 | 378.4 |
| Kingston | 90 | 312.9 |
| Québec | 410 | 305.1 |
| Moncton | 81 | 304.6 |
| Saskatoon | 174 | 279.6 |
| Gatineau[5] | 172 | 258.3 |
| Greater Sudbury | 74 | 244.2 |
| Halifax | 173 | 240.5 |
| Montréal | 1,805 | 236.3 |
| Sherbrooke | 81 | 230.5 |
| Saint John | 64 | 223.4 |
| Winnipeg | 363 | 219.4 |
| Brantford | 59 | 210.2 |
| Edmonton | 555 | 210.1 |
| Kelowna | 67 | 208.5 |
| Abbotsford-Mission | 82 | 206.6 |
| Peterborough | 43 | 205.3 |
| Regina | 97 | 198.4 |
| Hamilton[6] | 207 | 194.5 |
| St. John's | 64 | 170.9 |
| Thunder Bay | 36 | 170.6 |
| Windsor | 103 | 167.2 |
| London | 157 | 159.7 |
| Vancouver | 691 | 156.2 |
| Toronto[7] | 1,645 | 154.0 |
| Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo | 175 | 153.0 |
| Victoria | 79 | 141.0 |
| Calgary | 401 | 137.8 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 110 | 134.4 |
| Barrie | 55 | 119.6 |
| Guelph | 31 | 118.1 |
| Ottawa[8] | 189 | 98.0 |
| **CMA Total[9]** | **8,831** | **183.6** |
| **Non CMA Total** | **7,911** | **382.9** |
| **Canada** | **16,742** | **243.5** |

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses.
4. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
9. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

# Section 4: Family violence against seniors

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Abuse against seniors can take many forms and is often perpetrated by a family member (Wahl and Purdy 2010). Moreover, the physical disabilities or cognitive impairments experienced by some seniors may increase their vulnerability and affect the nature of the abuse they experience (Edwards 2011; McDonald and Collins 2000; Wahl and Purdy 2010).

Canada, like many countries around the world, is facing an aging population (Statistics Canada 2012a). According to the most recent Census conducted in 2011, nearly 15% of Canadians, approximately five million, are aged 65 and older (see *Age and Sex Highlights Tables, 2011 Census* at www.statcan.gc.ca) and this number will continue to grow in the coming years, particularly over the next three decades as baby boomers continue to reach the age of 65. According to population projections, by 2036 the size of the senior population will increase by about two-fold and persons aged 65 and over will represent approximately one-quarter of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada 2010).

Previous research suggests that men and women aged 65 and over have a significantly lower risk of violent victimization relative to younger adults (Brennan 2012). Still, the mistreatment and abuse of seniors has been recognized as a social problem since the 1970s (Brownell and Podnieks, 2005; Report of the National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse 2007) and with an aging Canadian population, gaining further information about what is often referred to as a 'hidden crime' will only continue to increase in importance, with possible implications for raising awareness and developing prevention and intervention programs (McDonald and Collins 2000; Brownell and Podnieks, 2005; Report of the National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse 2007; Standing Committee on the Status of Women 2012).

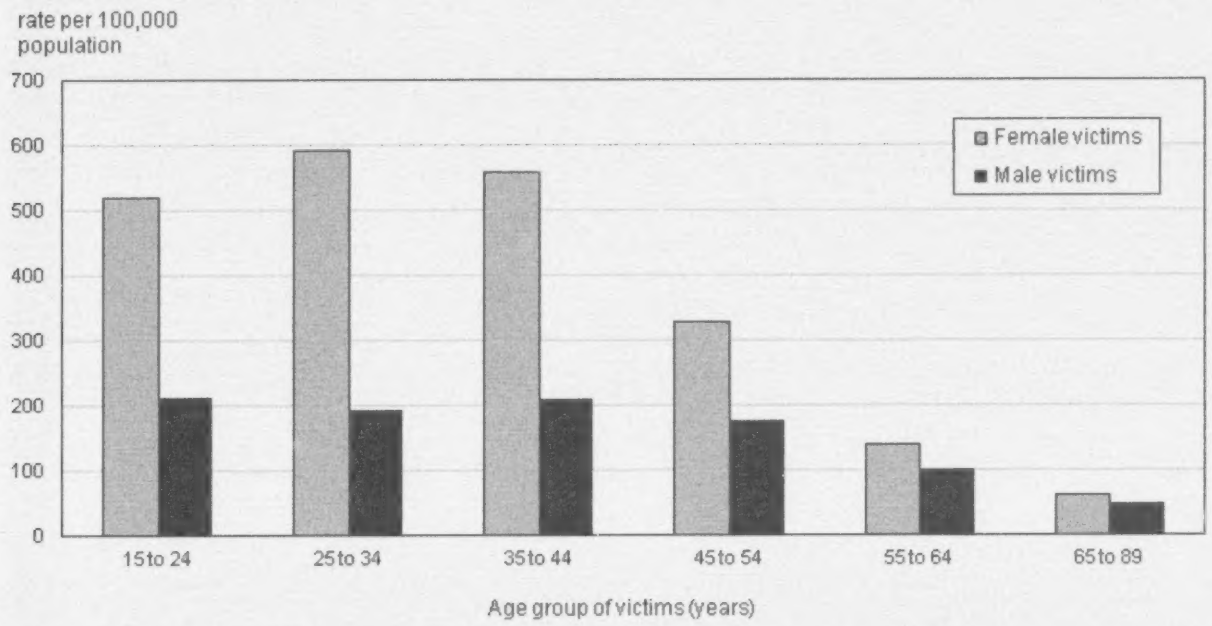
Using police-reported data[1] from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, this section examines the extent to which Canadian seniors (aged 65 and over), nationally, provincially/territorially and across the country's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) were the victims of a violent crime at the hands of a family member. The report examines the age and gender of senior victims of family violence and the specific nature of the relationship between the accused and the victim. Information about the characteristics of the incidents is also presented, such as the types of violence perpetrated, the weapons involved and the injuries sustained by elderly victims. A discussion of how these crimes are cleared by police is also included. This section ends with an examination of family-related violence in its most extreme form, homicides of seniors by family members.

## One-third of those accused in violent crimes against seniors are family members

According to police-reported data, at a rate of 173.9 per 100,000 seniors, nearly 8,900 of persons aged 65 and over were the victims of a violent crime in Canada in 2013 (Table 4.1). For the majority of these violent crimes the accused was not related to the victim (i.e., 27% were strangers, 21% a casual acquaintance, and 9% were a neighbour, 5% were a business acquaintance, and 6% were a friend or dating partner of the victim). Still, family members made up one-third of those accused in incidents of violent crime against seniors[2]; a figure that is similar to previous studies (Brennan 2013).

Police-reported data indicate that just over 2,900 seniors were the victims of family violence in 2013. This figure translates into a rate of 56.8 victims per 100,000 seniors. In 2013, seniors continued to represent a relatively small proportion of all family violence victims, about 3%, and had lower rates of family violence than any other age group (Chart 4.1). The rate of family violence among younger men aged 25 to 34, for example, was about four times higher than the rate for men aged 65 and over. This difference was even more pronounced among women, with the victimization rate for women aged 25 to 34 being over nine times higher than the rate for senior women.

**Chart 4.1**
**Victims of police-reported family violence, by age group and sex, Canada, 2013**

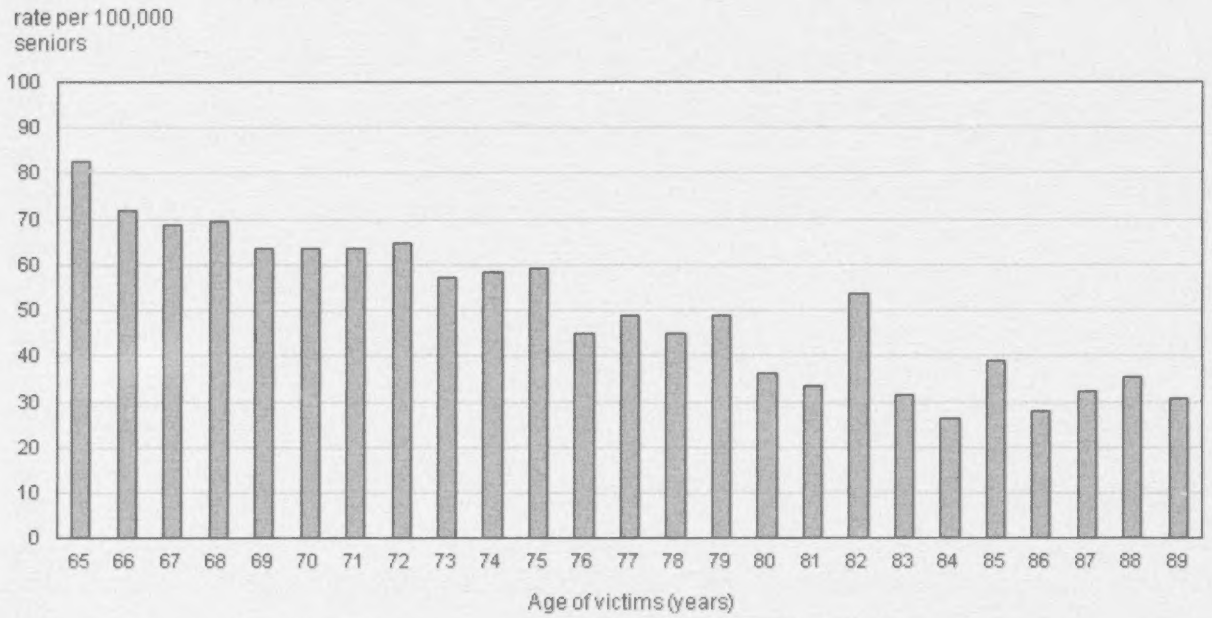



**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age were unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## Younger seniors and senior women at greater risk of family violence victimization

Even among seniors themselves, the risk of family-related violence varies. For instance, similar to the overall pattern observed among younger adults, rates of police-reported family violence are generally highest among younger seniors and gradually decline with age (Chart 4.2). In 2013, the rate of family-related violence among seniors aged 65 to 74 was 1.5 times higher than the rate for seniors aged 75 to 84 and double that reported for seniors 85 and older. Differences in living arrangements may help explain some of the differences in the rates of family violence experienced between younger and older seniors. Younger seniors are more likely to live in private households, usually with a spouse or common-law partner. However, this likelihood declines with age and the likelihood of living in a collective dwelling such as a seniors' residence or nursing home increases (Statistics Canada 2012a). In addition, older seniors, particularly older senior women, may outlive their spouses, thereby reducing their risk of family violence perpetrated by a spouse (Chappell et al., 2003; Sinha 2012). Further, the ability or capacity to report abuse (i.e., due to, for example, frailty or cognitive impairment) may decline with age (Laumann, Leitsch and Waite 2008).

**Chart 4.2**
**Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by age of victim, Canada, 2013**



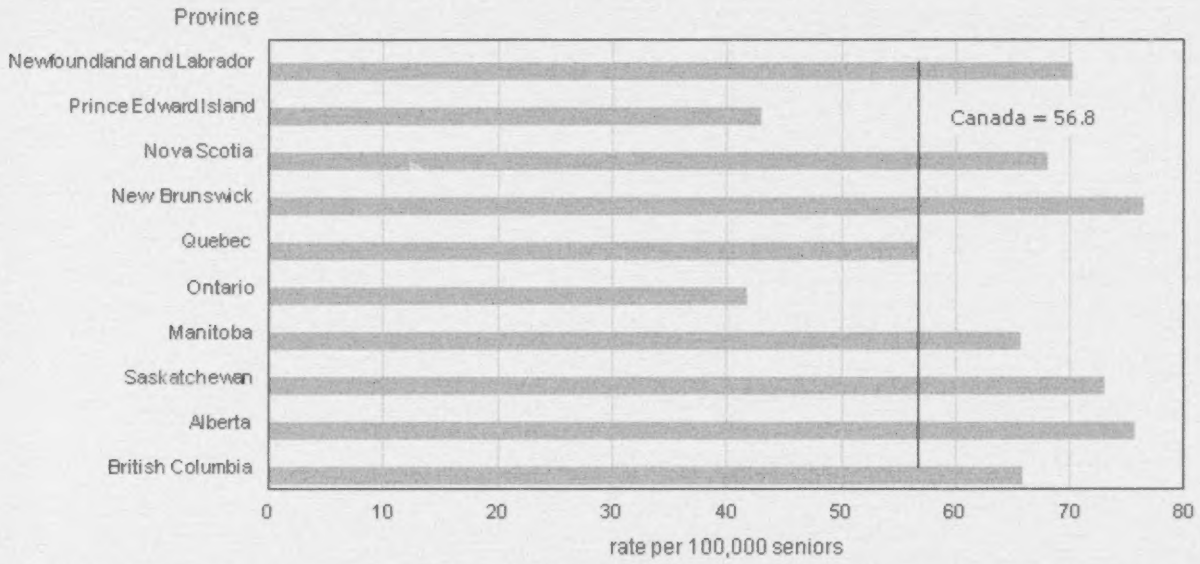

**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

While less pronounced than among their younger counterparts, differences in family violence victimization by sex were also observed among seniors. In 2013, the police-reported rate of family violence for senior women was higher (+26%) than the rate for senior men (62.7 versus 49.7 per 100,000, respectively). This finding is consistent with the greater risk of family violence victimization in general, and spousal violence victimization in particular, that women face. Nevertheless, the difference between female and male rates of family violence among seniors is notably smaller than the gap observed between the sexes for younger victims. Women aged 15 to 64 experienced a police-reported rate of family violence that was more than twice the rate for similarly aged men; and female victims aged 25 to 34 (the group with the highest victimization rate), in particular, had a rate 3 times higher than that of their male counterparts.

## Family violence against seniors highest in the territories, New Brunswick, Alberta and Saskatchewan

Across Canada, violent crime rates, in general, were highest in the territories. Likewise, police-reported family violence against seniors was highest in Nunavut, with the next highest rates reported in the Northwest Territories, then Yukon (Table 4.2). Among the provinces, New Brunswick and Alberta, both with similar rates, followed closely by Saskatchewan, recorded the highest rates of family violence against seniors in 2013 (Chart 4.3). This finding differs from the general pattern for violent crimes seen provincially in 2013, where rates were highest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Chart 4.3**
**Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by province, 2013**




**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, step, half, foster or adopted), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

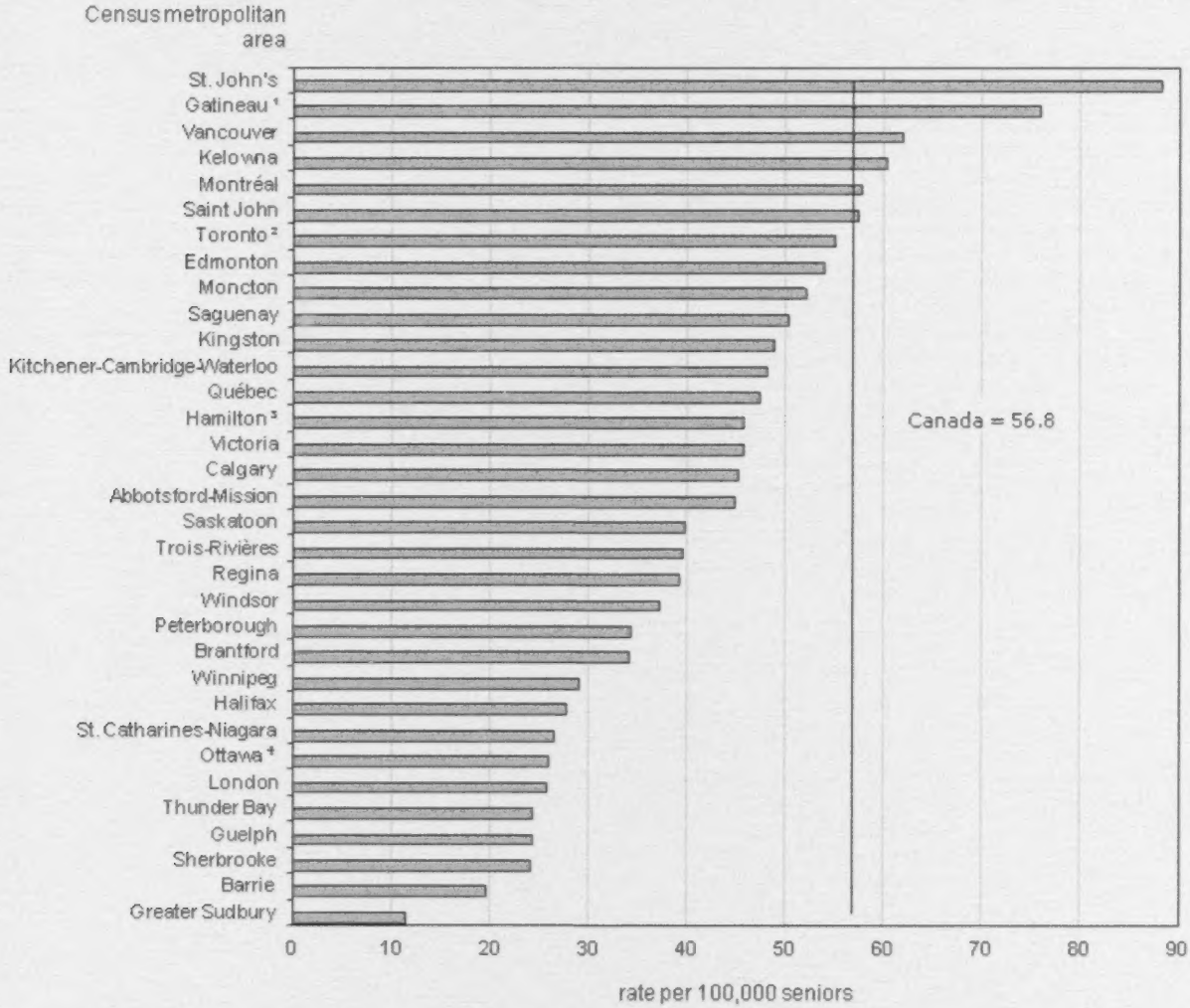
In previous years while nationally, senior women had higher rates of family violence than senior men, in some provinces or territories it was senior men who were at greater risk. In 2013, there were a number of jurisdictions where the rate of family violence for senior men was higher than that of senior women. In Yukon, for example, the rate of family violence for senior men was double that of senior women. Similarly, but to a lesser degree, senior men also experienced higher rates of family violence in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island. Senior women, however, had notably higher rates of family violence in the Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut and Nova Scotia. In each of these jurisdictions the victimization rate for female seniors was about 1.5 times greater than the rate for male seniors. Rates for senior men and senior women were most similar in New Brunswick.

## Seniors living in Canada's census metropolitan areas face lower risk of family violence than those in smaller towns and cities

Rates of family violence among seniors tend to be lower among those living in urban versus rural areas (Brennan 2013; Sinha 2012). As with previous years, police-reported data from 2013 also indicate that family violence rates for senior victims were lower among seniors living in Canada's 33 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) than among those residing in smaller towns and cities outside of CMAs. Isolation can put seniors a greater risk of experiencing abuse and may be one of many possible factors in understanding the higher rates of family violence for seniors in non-CMAs versus CMAs (Report of the National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse 2007; Wahl and Purdy 2010). Overall, about 47.7 per 100,000 seniors living in a CMA were victims of family violence compared to 73.5 per 100,000 seniors living in non-CMAs (Table 4.3).

The CMA with the highest rate of family violence among seniors was St. John's, where the rate of victimization was more than 1.5 times higher than the overall rate for Canada (Chart 4.4). Gatineau, Vancouver, Kelowna, Montréal and Saint John were also among the CMAs with the highest rates of police-reported family violence against seniors, all with rates above the national rate. At one-fifth the national rate, Greater Sudbury recorded the lowest rate of family violence against seniors among the CMAs. Barrie, Sherbrooke, Guelph, and Thunder Bay had the next lowest rates, but the rates of family violence against seniors in these CMAs were still about double that of Greater Sudbury.

**Chart 4.4**
**Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2013**




1. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
2. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
3. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

**Note:** A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

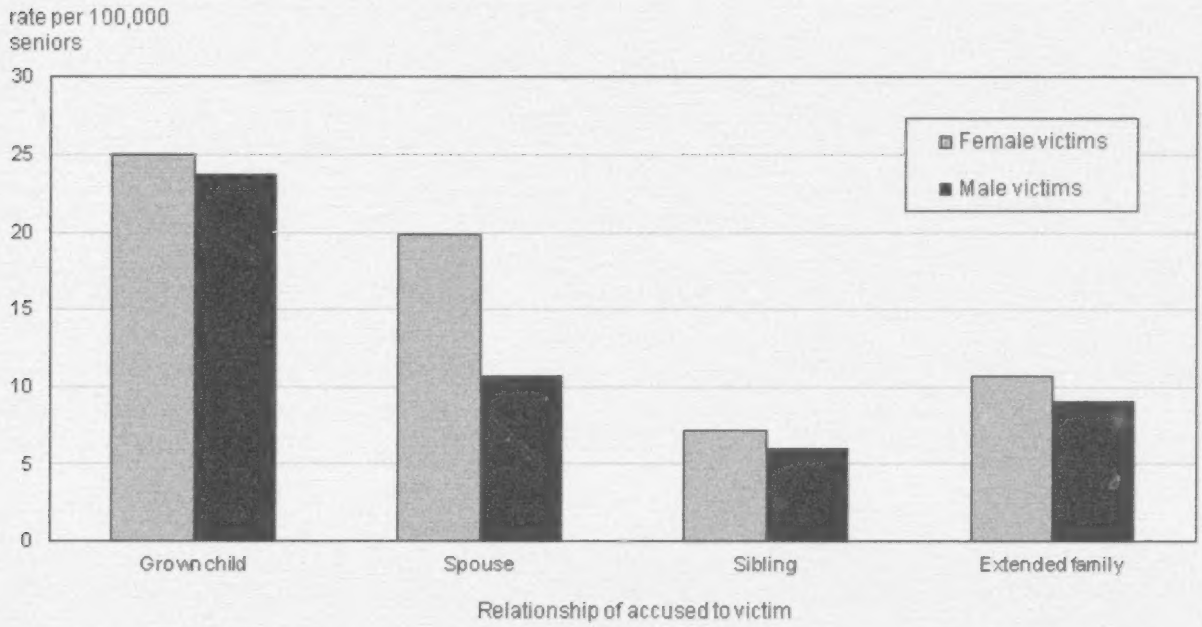
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## Victims' grown children most often the perpetrators of family-related violence against seniors

In 2013, as in previous years, seniors who were the victims of family violence were most likely to be victimized by their own adult children, according to police-reported data (Brennan 2013; Sinha 2012). About 4 in 10 (43%) senior victims of police-reported family violence indicated that the accused was their grown child. Spouses (28%) were the second most likely family members to be identified as perpetrators of family violence against seniors.

Both male and female seniors reported a similar likelihood of being victimized by their grown children (Chart 4.5). Their rates of victimization by siblings and extended family members, though notably lower than the rates of victimization by grown children, were also similar. Where male and female seniors differ most is in their risk of spousal violence. The rate of spousal violence for senior women (19.8 per 100,000) was nearly double the rate experienced by senior men (10.8 per 100,000). Still, seniors, regardless of sex, had the lowest rates of spousal violence among all age groups; a finding supported by previous research (Sinha 2013).

**Chart 4.5**
**Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2013**




**Note:** Grown child includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child'). Spouses include legally married, separated, divorced, common-law and same-sex partners. Sibling includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters. Extended family includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

## Common assault accounts for more than half of violence committed against seniors by family members

Regardless of the victim's age, common assault,[3] which includes acts that cause relatively minor or no physical injury (e.g., pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats), is the type of offence reported in the majority of family violence incidents. Accordingly, more than half (55%) of seniors victimized by a family member suffered a common or level 1 assault in 2013 (Table 4.4). Uttering threats (19%), followed by more serious types of assault (12%), were the next most frequent offences perpetrated against senior victims of family violence.

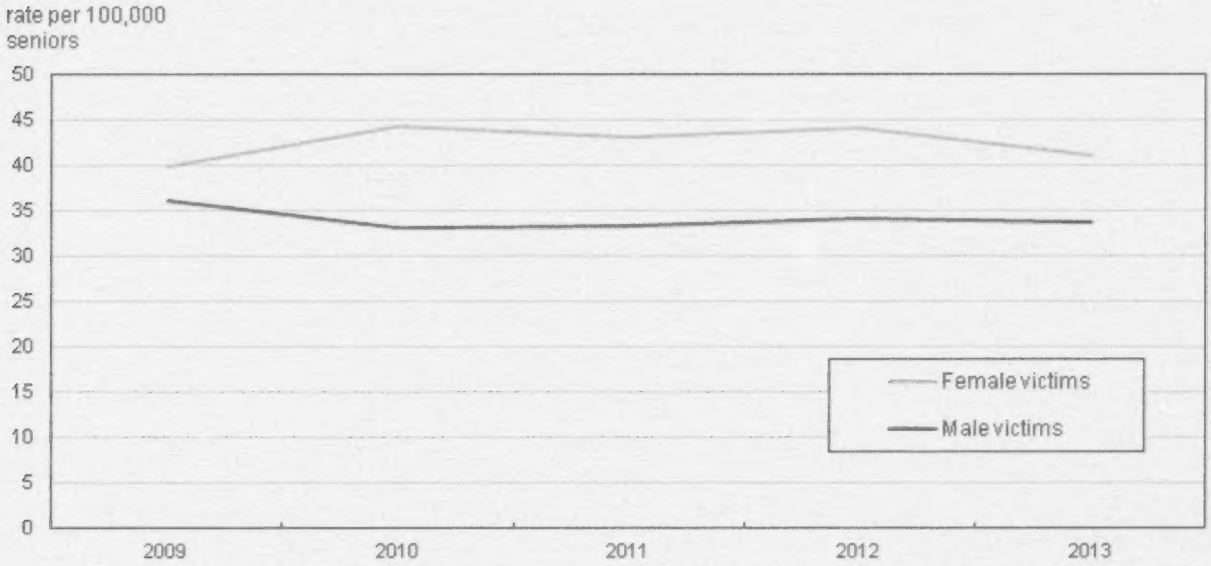
Overall, the distribution of the various offences experienced by senior, as well as younger adult victims of family violence was similar. However, seniors victimized by a family member were proportionately more likely to have threats uttered against them (19% versus 12%) compared to victims of family violence who were not seniors (i.e., younger adults aged 15 to 64).

Data from a subset of police services can be used to examine trends in two forms of family violence: physical assault and sexual assault.[4] These data show that overall, the recent 5-year trend in the most common form of family violence against seniors, physical assaults, has been relatively stable, with only a 1% difference between 2009 and 2013. While the annual rate of family-related physical assaults for seniors as a whole was generally similar in each year from 2009 to 2013, trends in rates by sex were somewhat different (Chart 4.6). Following an 8% year-over-year decline in 2010, rates of family violence

for senior males were steady between 2010 and 2013. For female seniors, however, the 5-year trend was more varied. The rate of family-related violence against female seniors rose 11% between 2009 and 2010, remained stable from 2010 to 2012, then declined 7% between 2012 and 2013.

Compared to physical assaults, sexual assaults of seniors by family members are much less common and tend to disproportionately affect female seniors when they do occur. For instance, in 2013 there were 23 family-related sexual assaults against seniors, which accounted for 1% of all family violence against seniors; 96% of these senior sexual assault victims were female. Trend data from 2009 to 2013 show that overall rates of family-related sexual assaults against seniors declined consistently from 2009 to 2012, dropping from 0.6 per 100,000 seniors to 0.3 per 100,000 seniors (-51%). However in 2013, the rate rose (+47% over 2012), returning to 0.5 per 100,000 seniors.

**Chart 4.6**
**Senior victims of police-reported physical assault by a family member, by sex of victim, 2009 to 2013**




**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which represents 99% of police services in Canada.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

## Few incidents of family violence against seniors involved weapons

In a sizable majority of incidents (85%), the perpetrators of family violence against seniors used physical force (e.g., choking, pushing, slapping, punching) or threats (i.e., verbal or gesture) against their victims; not weapons. This finding was true for both male and female seniors. Overall, more than half (60%) of seniors victimized by a relative in 2013 were subjected to physical force and another 24% to threats (Table 4.5). Compared to seniors, younger adult[5] victims of family violence were more likely to have physical force used against them (68%), and less likely to endure threats (16%).

A weapon was involved in fewer than one in six family violence incidents against senior victims. If, however, a weapon was present, rarely was it a firearm (1%). Knives, blunt instruments and other weapons were the weapons most often implicated in incidents of family violence against seniors.

## Most senior victims of family violence do not sustain physical injuries

Senior victims of family violence experienced physical injuries less frequently than victims who were younger adults. Police-reported findings indicate that among seniors victimized by a family member, 61% sustained no physical injuries as a result

of the violence suffered, compared to 53% of younger adult victims. Of the 39% of seniors who were injured, the vast majority sustained minor injuries requiring little or no medical attention (e.g., some first aid) (Table 4.6). This finding is consistent with the earlier reported finding that three-quarters of family violence incidents against seniors involve the least serious level of assault or uttering threats, and that most do not involve weapons. Nevertheless, 3% of senior victims (versus 2% of younger adult victims) suffered severe physical injuries or died as a result of family violence. With respect to the level of injury sustained, similar proportions were observed for both male and female victims of family violence against seniors.

## Charges are laid in the majority of police-reported incidents of family violence against seniors

Not all crimes come to the attention of police. According to research on self-reported victimization among older adults (i.e., aged 55 and older), violent incidents involving older adults were more likely to be reported to police than were violent crimes against younger victims (i.e., aged 15 to 54). Just under half (46%) of all violent incidents against older adults are reported to police, compared to 28% of violent crimes against younger Canadians (Brennan 2012). There are numerous reasons why senior victims of family violence may choose not to report their victimization to the police, some of which may include any of the following: victims may blame themselves for the abuse or not recognize the situation as abusive; they may feel ashamed, embarrassed or humiliated; they may fear the repercussions of disclosing the abuse (e.g., an escalation of the abuse; loss of financial support; loss of connections with loved ones); or individuals may not know where to turn for help (Employment and Social Development Canada 2011; Wahl and Purdy 2010). Data from the General Social Survey on victimization show that among self-reported victims of violence aged 55 and older, the most common reasons for not reporting their violent victimization to police were because the incident was dealt with in another way; they did not feel the police could do anything about it; because the incident was not important enough; or because they considered the incident to be a personal matter (Brennan 2012).

When a family-related violent incident against a senior comes to the attention of police, it is likely to result in the identification of a perpetrator and the laying of charges. In 2013, 85% of police-reported incidents of family violence against seniors were cleared by police (Table 4.7).

Over half (55%) of family violence incidents against seniors were 'cleared by charge', meaning that at least one accused was identified and a charge was laid (or recommended to be laid) against the accused. And while overall, clearance rates were similar for seniors and younger adults (85% and 86%, respectively), a slightly larger proportion (58%) of family violence incidents involving adult victims that were not seniors resulted in charges being laid or recommended.

Among senior victims of family violence, 30% of incidents were cleared by police through means other than the laying of a charge. In these instances, while an accused is identified and sufficient evidence exists to lay charges, the incident is cleared otherwise, such as in cases where the senior victim requested charges not be laid against the family member (18%) or where departmental discretion was applied (7%).

Overall, the total percentage of family violence incidents against seniors cleared by police was similar for senior women (84%) and senior men (86%). Charges were slightly more common in cases where the victim was a female senior (57%) versus a male senior (51%), while incidents involving male seniors (35%) were cleared by means other than by charge more often than those involving senior females (27%).

## Family homicides of seniors continue to be rare

In rare instances, family violence results in homicide. Detailed information on the characteristics of homicide incidents, victims and accused is collected through the Homicide Survey and while family-related homicides of seniors, and homicides in general, are relatively uncommon in Canada, information from the Homicide Survey allows a closer look at the long-term trends of family homicide rates against seniors and the motivating factors behind these crimes.

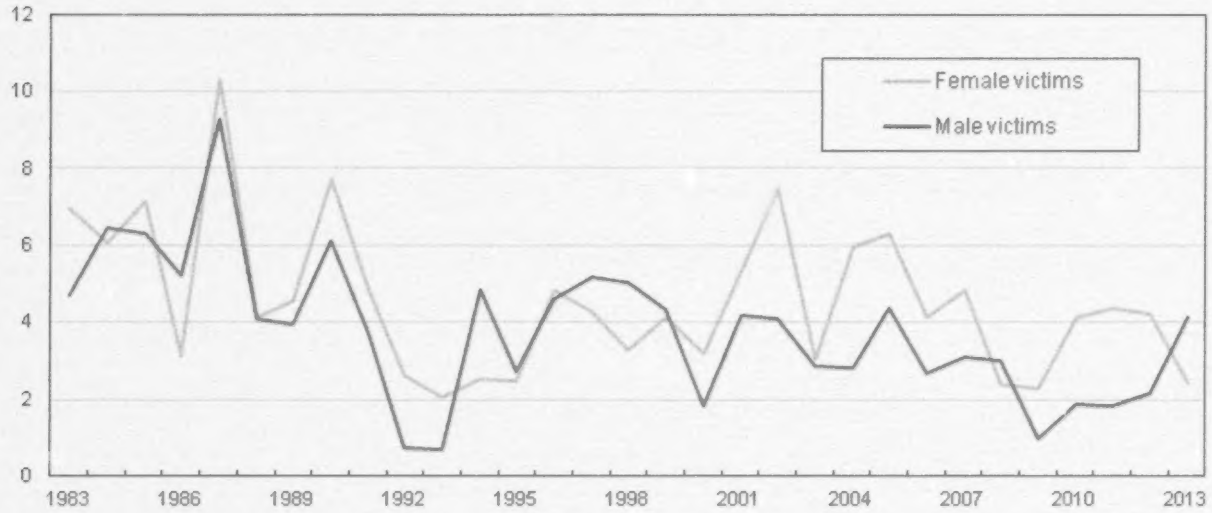
In 2013, the overall rate of family-related homicides against seniors sat at 3.2 for every 1 million persons aged 65 and over. Generally speaking, rates of family-related homicides against seniors have declined over the last three decades, with some year-to-year fluctuations. These annual fluctuations can be accounted for when examining trends in family-related homicides of seniors, by calculating the average homicide rate over a longer time frame, such as a decade. For example, the 10-year average in rates of family-related homicides for seniors from the most recent 10-year period (i.e., 2004 to 2013) was 15% lower than the average rate for the previous 10-year period (i.e., 1994 to 2003) and 30% below the 10-year average from two decades ago (i.e. 1984 to 1993).

Looking at the general trend over time, rates of family homicide against seniors have tended to decline more notably for males compared to females (Chart 4.7). Again using a 10-year average, the rate of family homicides for senior males fell 40% compared to two decades ago, while female seniors experienced a decline of 22% over the same period of time.

Generally speaking, the elevated risk of family violence traditionally experienced by senior women versus senior men also seems to correspond with a greater risk for suffering family homicide. Over the last three decades, along with a slightly steeper decline in their rates of family-related homicides, senior men were, in a majority of instances, less likely than senior women to be killed by a family member. However in 2013, at a rate of 4.1 per million, senior men experienced family homicide at a rate that was nearly double that of senior females (2.5 per million).

**Chart 4.7**
**Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1983 to 2013**

rate per million seniors




**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Family-related homicide refers to homicides committed by spouses (current and former legally married and common-law), children (biological, step, adoptive and foster), and all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption (e.g., siblings, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the victim-accused relationship and sex of the victim were unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population of seniors aged 65 and over. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## Victim's child the perpetrator in nearly half of family-related homicides of seniors

In terms of who the perpetrators are, the patterns observed for the less extreme forms of family violence against seniors generally apply to the acts of family violence that result in death. Senior victims of family-related homicides were most likely to have been killed by their grown children. Between 2003 and 2013, the victim's grown child was identified as the perpetrator in nearly half (47%) of all family-related homicides of seniors. In comparison, younger adults who were the victims of a family homicide, were most often (58%) killed by a current or former spouse.[6] A current or former spouse was the second most commonly accused family member in family-related homicides of seniors, constituting 33% of perpetrators.

Male seniors who were killed by a family member were especially likely to have died at the hands of their child, with grown children accounting for 72% of those accused (Table 4.8). However, among female victims of family-related homicide of seniors, the largest proportion of victims was killed by a legal or common-law partner (46%), with the victims' children as the next most likely perpetrators (33%).

## Feelings of frustration, anger or despair and arguments often precipitating factors in family homicides of seniors

In most family-related homicides of seniors, the primary motive is known or there is strong evidence to suggest the underlying motive. According to police records, feelings of frustration, anger or despair experienced by the accused have led to 33% of these homicides, and nearly another third (31%) were the result of an argument or quarrel. Incidents where there was no apparent motive, such as when mental illness or dementia were involved, accounted for fewer than one in five family-related homicides of a senior (Table 4.9).

Motives for family-related homicides of seniors differ somewhat between the sexes. In family-related homicides of senior women, frustration, anger or despair were the most commonly identified precipitating factors, listed as motives in 42% of incidents (compared to 18% involving male victims). Arguments, however, were the most frequent cause for family-related homicides of senior men, with almost half (45%) of family homicides against male seniors occurring as a result of an argument; a proportion almost double that reported for senior female victims (24%).

In addition, family-related homicides against seniors that were classified as mercy killings or assisted suicides were more common among senior women (8%) than senior men (2%). As well, the proportion of family-related homicides with no apparent motive was higher among male seniors (21%), than among female seniors (14%).

## Summary

According to police-reported data, seniors experienced lower rates of family-related violence in 2013 than younger adults, a trend supported by previous findings. Similarly, current findings also indicated that age, sex and geography continue to be relevant factors in family violence against seniors. Younger seniors experienced higher rates of family violence than older seniors and senior women were at greater risk than their male counterparts.

With respect to geographic variations, rates of family violence against seniors continued to be highest in the territories in 2013, while New Brunswick, Alberta and Saskatchewan recorded the highest rates among the provinces. Looking at Canada's CMAs and non-CMAs, the risk of family victimization among seniors was generally greater for seniors living in non-CMAs.

As in years prior, acts of family-related violence against both male and female seniors were most commonly perpetrated by victims' grown children. However, female seniors were more likely than male seniors to be victimized by a spouse. Violent crimes against seniors committed by family members typically took the form of common assaults. Weapons were rarely present in family violence against seniors. Instead, physical force and threats were most often used against senior victims. Family violence against seniors that escalates to homicide continues to be rare.

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## Notes

1. This report is based on police-substantiated incidents of family violence. However, the true extent of family violence may be underestimated, as not all cases come to the attention of police. As the results from the most recent General Social Survey (2009) on victimization indicate, fewer than 3 in 10 incidents of violent victimization were reported to police (Perreault and Brennan 2010). In addition, incidents that are not *Criminal Code* offences, such as emotional or psychological abuse, and non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud are not included in this report.

2. In comparison, family members constituted a smaller proportion of those accused in violent crimes committed against younger adults (i.e., those aged 15 -64); one-quarter of those accused in incidents of violent crime against non-senior adults were relatives.

3. Assault is a violent offence classified into three levels: level 1 or common assault, the least serious form including behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats; level 2 assault, defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm; and level 3 aggravated assault, defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

4. Only trends in rates of family-related physical and sexual assault are included here; calculating the annual percentage change in the overall rate of senior victims of family violence is not possible for the following reasons: 1) differences over the years in the number of 'rejected' victim records for the UCR data file; and 2) differences in the victim record requirements for violent offences (i.e., not all violent offences require the submission of information on the victim characteristics, such as the accused-victim relationship) and possible variations in the distribution of these offences over the years.

5. Throughout this chapter, 'younger adults' refers to non-senior individuals aged 15 to 64.

6. 'Spouse' includes current, separated or divorced, legally married, common-law partners, opposite as well as same sex partners.

## Detailed data tables

Table 4.1
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and sex of victim, Canada, 2013

| Relationship of accused to victim | Female victims | | | Male victims | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | rate[1] | number | percent | rate[1] | number | percent | rate[1] |
| **Total family** | **1,738** | **43** | **62.7** | **1,164** | **24** | **49.7** | **2,902** | **33** | **56.8** |
| Grown child[2] | 694 | 17 | 25.0 | 557 | 12 | 23.8 | 1,251 | 14 | 24.5 |
| Spouse[3] | 548 | 13 | 19.8 | 252 | 5 | 10.8 | 800 | 9 | 15.7 |
| Sibling[4] | 200 | 5 | 7.2 | 142 | 3 | 6.1 | 342 | 4 | 6.7 |
| Extended family[5] | 296 | 7 | 10.7 | 213 | 4 | 9.1 | 509 | 6 | 10.0 |
| **Total friends, acquaintances, other** | **1,434** | **35** | **51.8** | **2,158** | **45** | **92.2** | **3,592** | **40** | **70.3** |
| Casual Acquaintances[6] | 776 | 19 | 28.0 | 1,104 | 23 | 47.2 | 1,880 | 21 | 36.8 |
| Neighbour | 291 | 7 | 10.5 | 501 | 10 | 21.4 | 792 | 9 | 15.5 |
| Business relationship | 136 | 3 | 4.9 | 298 | 6 | 12.7 | 434 | 5 | 8.5 |
| Dating partner[7] | 122 | 3 | 4.4 | 107 | 2 | 4.6 | 229 | 3 | 4.5 |
| Friends[8] | 109 | 3 | 3.9 | 148 | 3 | 6.3 | 257 | 3 | 5.0 |
| Stranger | 906 | 22 | 32.7 | 1,485 | 31 | 63.4 | 2,391 | 27 | 46.8 |
| Unknown | 0 | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... |
| **Total violence against seniors** | **4,078** | **100** | **147.2** | **4,813** | **100** | **205.6** | **8,891** | **100** | **173.9** |

... not applicable
1. Rate per 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
3. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
5. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
6. Includes criminal relationships, authority figures, and reverse authority figures.
7. Includes girlfriend/boyfriend (current and previous) and other intimate partners.
8. Includes roommates, which was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.2
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2013

| Province and territory | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 29 | 63.0 | 32 | 78.4 | 61 | 70.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 5 | 39.8 | 5 | 46.7 | 10 | 43.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 68 | 79.1 | 40 | 55.0 | 108 | 68.0 |
| New Brunswick | 52 | 76.3 | 45 | 76.8 | 97 | 76.5 |
| Quebec | 476 | 67.1 | 260 | 44.4 | 736 | 56.9 |
| Ontario | 530 | 49.7 | 284 | 32.1 | 814 | 41.7 |
| Manitoba | 54 | 59.2 | 56 | 73.4 | 110 | 65.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 54 | 66.8 | 55 | 80.3 | 109 | 73.0 |
| Alberta | 182 | 79.1 | 143 | 71.7 | 325 | 75.7 |
| British Columbia | 255 | 67.8 | 216 | 63.6 | 471 | 65.8 |
| Yukon | 3 | 181.8 | 7 | 369.4 | 10 | 282.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 15 | 1,193.3 | 10 | 757.6 | 25 | 970.1 |
| Nunavut | 15 | 2,564.1 | 11 | 1,708.1 | 26 | 2,115.5 |
| **Canada** | **1,738** | **62.7** | **1,164** | **49.7** | **2,902** | **56.8** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.3
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2013

| Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2] | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[3] | number | rate[3] | number | rate[3] |
| St. John's | 9 | 62.0 | 14 | 121.2 | 23 | 88.3 |
| Gatineau[4] | 20 | 95.4 | 9 | 52.4 | 29 | 76.0 |
| Vancouver | 114 | 65.0 | 89 | 58.3 | 203 | 61.9 |
| Kelowna | 14 | 75.0 | 7 | 43.3 | 21 | 60.3 |
| Montréal | 224 | 69.6 | 107 | 42.5 | 331 | 57.7 |
| Saint John | 7 | 56.2 | 6 | 59.0 | 13 | 57.5 |
| Toronto[5] | 237 | 63.1 | 137 | 44.9 | 374 | 55.0 |
| Edmonton | 47 | 61.3 | 29 | 45.2 | 76 | 54.0 |
| Moncton | 6 | 51.5 | 5 | 53.0 | 11 | 52.1 |
| Saguenay | 9 | 55.0 | 6 | 44.7 | 15 | 50.3 |
| Kingston | 10 | 68.4 | 3 | 25.1 | 13 | 48.9 |
| Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo | 23 | 63.3 | 9 | 29.9 | 32 | 48.1 |
| Québec | 44 | 59.6 | 18 | 31.5 | 62 | 47.3 |
| Hamilton[6] | 28 | 60.9 | 10 | 27.1 | 38 | 45.8 |
| Victoria | 15 | 43.7 | 14 | 48.2 | 29 | 45.8 |
| Calgary | 31 | 43.8 | 28 | 46.9 | 59 | 45.2 |
| Abbotsford-Mission | 7 | 53.5 | 4 | 34.9 | 11 | 44.8 |
| Saskatoon | 7 | 38.2 | 6 | 41.8 | 13 | 39.8 |
| Trois-Rivières | 5 | 29.4 | 7 | 52.7 | 12 | 39.6 |
| Regina | 6 | 38.2 | 5 | 40.7 | 11 | 39.3 |
| Windsor | 11 | 44.0 | 6 | 29.0 | 17 | 37.2 |
| Peterborough | 4 | 31.2 | 4 | 38.2 | 8 | 34.3 |
| Brantford | 3 | 26.8 | 4 | 43.1 | 7 | 34.2 |
| Winnipeg | 17 | 28.6 | 14 | 29.6 | 31 | 29.0 |
| Halifax | 9 | 30.2 | 6 | 24.8 | 15 | 27.8 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 20 | 44.1 | 2 | 5.3 | 22 | 26.5 |
| Ottawa[7] | 21 | 30.0 | 12 | 21.1 | 33 | 26.0 |
| London | 11 | 26.8 | 8 | 24.5 | 19 | 25.8 |
| Thunder Bay | 3 | 26.6 | 2 | 21.6 | 5 | 24.3 |
| Guelph | 4 | 42.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 24.3 |
| Sherbrooke | 5 | 27.0 | 3 | 20.5 | 8 | 24.2 |
| Barrie | 4 | 28.0 | 1 | 9.0 | 5 | 19.7 |
| Greater Sudbury | 2 | 13.7 | 1 | 8.5 | 3 | 11.4 |
| **CMA Total[8]** | **1,002** | **54.8** | **582** | **39.1** | **1,584** | **47.7** |
| **Non-CMA Total** | **736** | **78.2** | **582** | **68.3** | **1,318** | **73.5** |
| **Canada** | **1,738** | **62.7** | **1,164** | **49.7** | **2,902** | **56.8** |

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
8. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.4
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2013

| Type of offence | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death | 9 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 19 | 1 |
| Attempted murder[1] | 6 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.3 | 10 | 0.3 |
| Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3) | 22 | 1 | 1 | 0.1 | 23 | 1 |
| **Physical assault** | | | | | | |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3) | 179 | 10 | 172 | 15 | 351 | 12 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 971 | 56 | 632 | 54 | 1,603 | 55 |
| Other assaults[2] | 8 | 0.5 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 0.5 |
| Robbery | 14 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 1 |
| Extortion | 13 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 24 | 1 |
| Criminal harassment | 87 | 5 | 35 | 3 | 122 | 4 |
| Uttering threats | 324 | 19 | 236 | 20 | 560 | 19 |
| Indecent/harassing phone calls | 66 | 4 | 36 | 3 | 102 | 4 |
| Other violent offences[3] | 39 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 54 | 2 |
| **Total** | **1,738** | **100** | **1,164** | **100** | **2,902** | **100** |

1. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
2. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace or public officer, and other assaults.
3. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.5
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of weapon, Canada, 2013

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of weapon** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Threats or no weapon | 400 | 25 | 255 | 23 | 655 | 24 |
| Physical force | 995 | 62 | 634 | 58 | 1,629 | 60 |
| **Weapon** | | | | | | |
| Club or blunt instrument | 41 | 3 | 44 | 4 | 85 | 3 |
| Knife or other piercing instrument | 77 | 5 | 75 | 7 | 152 | 6 |
| Firearm | 13 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 22 | 1 |
| Other weapon[1] | 81 | 5 | 74 | 7 | 155 | 6 |
| Unknown | 131 | ... | 73 | ... | 204 | ... |
| **Total** | **1,738** | **100** | **1,164** | **100** | **2,902** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.6
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and level of injury, Canada, 2013

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Level of injury** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| No injuries[1] | 1,020 | 62 | 660 | 60 | 1,680 | 61 |
| Minor physical injuries[2] | 579 | 35 | 413 | 37 | 992 | 36 |
| Major physical injuries/death[3] | 39 | 2 | 35 | 3 | 74 | 3 |
| Unknown[4] | 100 | ... | 56 | ... | 156 | ... |
| **Total** | **1,738** | **100** | **1,164** | **100** | **2,902** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.
2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
3. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility or injuries that result in death.
4. Unknown injuries have been excluded in the calculation of percentages.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown injuries. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.7
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2013

| Type of clearance status | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Not cleared[1] | 275 | 16 | 166 | 14 | 441 | 15 |
| Cleared by charge | 990 | 57 | 593 | 51 | 1,583 | 55 |
| Cleared otherwise | 473 | 27 | 405 | 35 | 878 | 30 |
| Complainant requests charges not be laid | 274 | 16 | 254 | 22 | 528 | 18 |
| Reasons beyond the control of department | 55 | 3 | 34 | 3 | 89 | 3 |
| Departmental discretion | 117 | 7 | 98 | 8 | 215 | 7 |
| Other[2] | 27 | 2 | 19 | 2 | 46 | 2 |
| **Total** | **1,738** | **100** | **1,164** | **100** | **2,902** | **100** |

1. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident or incidents where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident.
2. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.8
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2003 to 2013

| Relationship of accused to victim | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Grown child[1] | 37 | 33 | 43 | 72 | 80 | 47 |
| Spouse[2] | 52 | 46 | 5 | 8 | 57 | 33 |
| Other family[3] | 23 | 21 | 12 | 20 | 35 | 20 |
| **Total** | **112** | **100** | **60** | **100** | **172** | **100** |

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include siblings, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the accused-victim relationship and sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.9
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim and type of motive, Canada, 2003 to 2013

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of motive** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Frustration, anger or despair | 42 | 42 | 10 | 18 | 52 | 33 |
| Argument or quarrel | 24 | 24 | 25 | 45 | 49 | 31 |
| No apparent motive[1] | 14 | 14 | 12 | 21 | 26 | 17 |
| Financial gain[2] | 5 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Mercy killing or assisted suicide | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| Revenge | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Jealousy | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Other[3] | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Unknown | 11 | ... | 4 | ... | 15 | ... |
| **Total** | **112** | **100** | **60** | **100** | **172** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, mental illness and dementia.
2. Includes, for example, robberies and homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.
3. Includes, for example, fear of apprehension, sexual violence, personal protection and settling of gang or drug-related accounts.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the accused-victim relationship and sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## Survey descriptions

### Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationships) and accused persons (age, sex). In 2013, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

The UCR2 Trend Database (2009 to 2013) represents 99% of police services in Canada. Analysis of this five-year trend database is limited to only those offences that have complete victim records and where UCR offence classification has remained constant over the five-year period. For the purpose of this *Juristat* article, the offences included in the trend analysis include attempted murder, physical assault (levels 1, 2, and 3) and sexual assault (levels 1, 2, and 3).

### Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred.

# Appendix

Table A-01
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2012

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Relationship of accused to victim** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| **Total victims of family violence** | **63,397** | **34** | **29,515** | **17** | **92,912** | **26** |
| Total spouses | 35,531 | 19 | 8,860 | 5 | 44,391 | 12 |
| Current spouse[1] | 25,322 | 14 | 6,177 | 3 | 31,499 | 9 |
| Ex-spouse[2] | 10,209 | 5 | 2,683 | 2 | 12,892 | 4 |
| Other immediate or extended family member | 27,866 | 15 | 20,655 | 12 | 48,521 | 13 |
| Parent[3] | 9,312 | 5 | 6,978 | 4 | 16,290 | 4 |
| Child[4] | 5,383 | 3 | 3,293 | 2 | 8,676 | 2 |
| Sibling[5] | 5,688 | 3 | 4,537 | 3 | 10,225 | 3 |
| Extended family member[6] | 7,483 | 4 | 5,847 | 3 | 13,330 | 4 |
| **Total victims of non-family violence** | **123,513** | **66** | **147,239** | **83** | **270,752** | **74** |
| Dating partners[7] | 40,789 | 22 | 10,759 | 6 | 51,548 | 14 |
| Boyfriend or girlfriend | 24,746 | 13 | 6,522 | 4 | 31,268 | 9 |
| Ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend | 15,140 | 8 | 3,779 | 2 | 18,919 | 5 |
| Other intimate partner | 903 | 0.5 | 458 | 0.3 | 1,361 | 0.4 |
| Close friend[8] | 7,508 | 4 | 7,730 | 4 | 15,238 | 4 |
| Business relationship | 5,636 | 3 | 9,106 | 5 | 14,742 | 4 |
| Casual acquaintance[9] | 36,866 | 20 | 49,225 | 28 | 86,091 | 24 |
| Criminal relationship[10] | 368 | 0.2 | 1,879 | 1 | 2,247 | 0.6 |
| Authority figure[11] | 2,481 | 1 | 3,208 | 2 | 5,689 | 2 |
| Stranger | 29,835 | 16 | 65,332 | 37 | 95,197 | 26 |
| Unknown relationship[12] | 63 | ... | 125 | ... | 188 | ... |
| **Total victims of violent crime[13]** | **186,973** | **100** | **176,879** | **100** | **363,852** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.
2. Includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.
3. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parent. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' (including 'step-child') and was therefore recoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent').
4. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster child. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
5. Includes biological, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.
6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
7. Includes victims under 90 years of age, including dating partner victims under the age of 15. The counts for dating partner victims do not match the information presented in Section 2 of the report, which examines intimate partner violence for those aged 15 years and older.
8. Includes roommates, which was added as a new relationship category.
9. Includes neighbours.
10. Includes relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
11. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority who are not family members. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures.
12. Includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as unknown.
13. Includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assault, assault, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

**Note:** Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship of the accused to the victim was known. Excludes incidents where the sex or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-02
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2012

| Type of offence | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death and attempted murder[1] | 171 | 0.3 | 118 | 0.4 | 289 | 0.3 |
| Sexual offences[2] | 6,217 | 10 | 1,309 | 4 | 7,526 | 8 |
| Physical assault | 43,844 | 69 | 22,532 | 76 | 66,376 | 71 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[3] | 7,086 | 11 | 5,594 | 19 | 12,680 | 14 |
| Common assault (level 1)[4] | 36,500 | 58 | 16,770 | 57 | 53,270 | 57 |
| Other assaults[5] | 258 | 0.4 | 168 | 0.6 | 426 | 0.5 |
| Criminal harassment | 3,238 | 5 | 640 | 2 | 3,878 | 4 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 1,074 | 2 | 402 | 1 | 1,476 | 2 |
| Uttering threats | 7,138 | 11 | 3,993 | 14 | 11,131 | 12 |
| Robbery | 156 | 0.2 | 98 | 0.3 | 254 | 0.3 |
| Other violent offences[6] | 1,559 | 2 | 423 | 1 | 1,982 | 2 |
| **Total** | **63,397** | **100** | **29,515** | **100** | **92,912** | **100** |

1. Includes conspire to commit murder.
2. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
3. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
4. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
5. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace or public officer, and other assaults.
6. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-03
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by relationship of accused to victim and sex of victim, Canada, 2012

| Relationship of accused to victim | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total victims | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Intimate partner | 75,657 | 41 | 19,540 | 11 | 95,197 | 26 |
| Current spouse[1] | 25,322 | 14 | 6,177 | 3 | 31,499 | 9 |
| Former spouse[2] | 10,209 | 5 | 2,683 | 2 | 12,892 | 4 |
| Current dating partner[3] | 24,338 | 13 | 6,500 | 4 | 30,838 | 8 |
| Former dating partner[4] | 14,929 | 8 | 3,756 | 2 | 18,685 | 5 |
| Other intimate partner[5] | 859 | 0.5 | 424 | 0.2 | 1,283 | 0.4 |
| Non-spousal family member[6] | 27,866 | 15 | 20,655 | 12 | 48,521 | 13 |
| Friend or acquaintance | 52,859 | 28 | 71,148 | 40 | 124,007 | 34 |
| Casual acquaintance[7] | 36,866 | 20 | 49,225 | 28 | 86,091 | 24 |
| Business relationship | 5,636 | 3 | 9,106 | 5 | 14,742 | 4 |
| Close friend[8] | 7,508 | 4 | 7,730 | 4 | 15,238 | 4 |
| Criminal relationship[9] | 368 | 0.2 | 1,879 | 1 | 2,247 | 0.6 |
| Authority figure[10] | 2,481 | 1 | 3,208 | 2 | 5,689 | 2 |
| Stranger | 29,865 | 16 | 65,332 | 37 | 95,197 | 26 |
| Unknown relationship[11] | 726 | ... | 204 | ... | 930 | ... |
| **Total** | **186,973** | **100** | **176,879** | **100** | **363,852** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Refers to violence committed by currently married persons and current common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by separated or divorced persons and former common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by current boyfriend or girlfriend. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Refers to violence committed by former boyfriends or girlfriends. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
5. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction. Includes victims ages 15 to 89.
6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grand-children, uncles, aunts, cousins and in laws.
7. Includes neighbours.
8. Includes roommates, which was added as a new relationship category.
9. Refers to relationships with the victim that are based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
10. Refers to persons in a position of authority or trust who are not a family member. Includes reverse authority: new relationship category.
11. Refers to incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as "unknown."
**Note:** Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was known. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-04
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of relationship and age of victim, Canada, 2012

| Age of victim | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | Total victims of intimate partner violence[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | current | former | current | former | |
| | number | | | | |
| **Total** | **31,499** | **12,892** | **30,838** | **18,685** | **93,914** |
| | percent | | | | |
| 15 to 19 years | 11 | 7 | 49 | 32 | 100 |
| 20 to 24 years | 22 | 10 | 44 | 24 | 100 |
| 25 to 29 years | 31 | 12 | 35 | 22 | 100 |
| 30 to 34 years | 38 | 16 | 28 | 18 | 100 |
| 35 to 39 years | 41 | 17 | 26 | 16 | 100 |
| 40 to 44 years | 42 | 18 | 25 | 15 | 100 |
| 45 to 49 years | 44 | 17 | 25 | 14 | 100 |
| 50 to 54 years | 45 | 15 | 25 | 15 | 100 |
| 55 to 59 years | 51 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 100 |
| 60 to 64 years | 56 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 100 |
| 65 years and over | 70 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 100 |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former) and dating partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

**Note:** Excludes other intimate partners, since it is not known whether the relationship was current or former. Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-05
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2012

| | Victims of intimate partner violence[1] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
| Type of offence | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death | 73 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.1 | 87 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murder[2] | 70 | 0.1 | 37 | 0.2 | 107 | 0.1 |
| Sexual assaults[3] | 2,568 | 3 | 65 | 0.3 | 2,633 | 3 |
| Assault | 55,393 | 73 | 16,497 | 84 | 71,890 | 76 |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[4] | 8,790 | 12 | 3,841 | 20 | 12,631 | 13 |
| Common assault (level 1)[5] | 46,214 | 61 | 12,582 | 64 | 58,796 | 62 |
| Other assaults[6] | 389 | 0.5 | 74 | 0.4 | 463 | 0.5 |
| Criminal harassment | 5,866 | 8 | 856 | 4 | 6,722 | 7 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 1,796 | 2 | 563 | 3 | 2,359 | 2 |
| Uttering threats | 7,077 | 9 | 1,292 | 7 | 8,369 | 9 |
| Robbery | 264 | 0.3 | 60 | 0.3 | 324 | 0.3 |
| Other violent offences[7] | 2,550 | 3 | 156 | 0.8 | 2,706 | 3 |
| **Total** | **75,657** | **100** | **19,540** | **100** | **95,197** | **100** |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Includes conspire to commit murder.
3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
6. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
7. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson and other violent crimes.

**Note:** Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship of the accused with the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-06
Victims of a police-reported violent crime, by type of intimate partner and most serious weapon present, Canada, 2012

| | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | Total victims of intimate partner violence[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type of weapon | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Threats or no weapon[4] | 6,476 | 16 | 8,402 | 17 | 14,878 | 17 |
| Physical force | 27,080 | 69 | 34,110 | 70 | 61,190 | 69 |
| Weapon | 5,801 | 15 | 6,301 | 13 | 12,102 | 14 |
| Firearm | 314 | 0.8 | 284 | 0.6 | 598 | 0.7 |
| Knife[5] | 1,794 | 5 | 1,913 | 4 | 3,707 | 4 |
| Club/blunt instrument | 978 | 2 | 782 | 2 | 1,760 | 2 |
| Other weapon[6] | 2,715 | 7 | 3,322 | 7 | 6,037 | 7 |
| Unknown | 5,034 | ... | 1,993 | ... | 7,027 | ... |
| **Total** | **44,391** | **100** | **50,806** | **100** | **95,197** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.
5. Includes other piercing/cutting instruments, such as a hatchet, razor blade or arrow.
6. Includes other types of weapon such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, or poison.

**Note:** Excludes incidents in which the age or sex of the victim was unknown and for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Unknown weapons are excluded from the calculation of percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-07
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by clearance status and type of intimate partner relationship, Canada, 2012

| Type of incident clearance status | Victims of spousal violence[1] | | Victims of dating violence[2] | | Total victims of intimate partner violence[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Not cleared[4] | 4,630 | 10 | 6,698 | 13 | 11,328 | 12 |
| Cleared by charge | 31,678 | 71 | 36,843 | 73 | 68,521 | 72 |
| Cleared otherwise | 8,083 | 18 | 7,265 | 14 | 15,348 | 16 |
| Complainant requests charges not to be laid | 3,378 | 8 | 3,758 | 7 | 7,136 | 7 |
| Reasons beyond the control of police department | 3,224 | 7 | 759 | 1 | 3,983 | 4 |
| Departmental discretion | 1,191 | 3 | 2,396 | 5 | 3,587 | 4 |
| Other[5] | 290 | 0.7 | 352 | 0.7 | 642 | 0.7 |
| **Total** | **44,391** | **100** | **50,806** | **100** | **95,197** | **100** |

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends or girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident or incidents where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident.
5. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, and incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
**Note:** In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-08
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2012

| Province and territory | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,301 | 572.3 | 377 | 171.6 | 1,678 | 375.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 289 | 465.3 | 68 | 115.5 | 357 | 295.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 2,148 | 524.8 | 567 | 144.8 | 2,715 | 339.0 |
| New Brunswick | 1,929 | 595.5 | 586 | 185.8 | 2,515 | 393.4 |
| Quebec | 16,381 | 480.7 | 4,226 | 126.1 | 20,607 | 304.9 |
| Ontario | 21,551 | 380.9 | 5,128 | 94.9 | 26,679 | 241.2 |
| Manitoba | 4,658 | 940.7 | 1,057 | 217.7 | 5,715 | 582.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 4,710 | 1,097.7 | 1,159 | 267.2 | 5,869 | 680.1 |
| Alberta | 10,565 | 677.1 | 2,853 | 177.6 | 13,418 | 423.7 |
| British Columbia | 10,303 | 535.1 | 3,054 | 161.6 | 13,357 | 350.1 |
| Yukon | 284 | 1,929.9 | 94 | 611.1 | 378 | 1,255.9 |
| Northwest Territories | 632 | 3,785.3 | 152 | 859.3 | 784 | 2,280.1 |
| Nunavut | 906 | 7,925.1 | 219 | 1,768.0 | 1,125 | 4,723.1 |
| **Canada** | **75,657** | **520.3** | **19,540** | **137.6** | **95,197** | **331.2** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Note:** Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded because of possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-09
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2012

| Type of offence | Adult victims (18 years and older) | | Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years) | | Children and youth victims by age group | | | | | | Total victims |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Less than 3 years | | 3 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | |
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number |
| **Violations causing death/attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder** | **1,192** | **4.3** | **120** | **1.7** | **24** | **2.1** | **30** | **0.9** | **66** | **2.7** | **1,312** |
| Murder, manslaughter, infanticide | 489 | 1.8 | 47 | 0.7 | 16 | 1.4 | 14 | 0.4 | 17 | 0.7 | 536 |
| Criminal negligence causing death | 78 | 0.3 | 17 | 0.2 | 5 | 0.4 | 4 | 0.1 | 8 | 0.3 | 95 |
| Other related offences causing death | 2 | 0.01 | 1 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.04 | 3 |
| Attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder | 623 | 2.3 | 55 | 0.8 | 3 | 0.3 | 12 | 0.4 | 40 | 1.6 | 678 |
| **Sexual offences** | **11,410** | **41.5** | **14,078** | **204.6** | **179** | **15.8** | **5,342** | **160.8** | **8,557** | **352.4** | **25,488** |
| Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated | 97 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.1 | 9 | 0.3 | 12 | 0.5 | 119 |
| Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm | 251 | 0.9 | 113 | 1.6 | 1 | 0.1 | 21 | 0.6 | 91 | 3.7 | 364 |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 10,668 | 38.8 | 10,168 | 147.8 | 117 | 10.3 | 3,678 | 110.7 | 6,373 | 262.4 | 20,836 |
| Sexual interference | ... | ... | 2,437 | 35.4 | 50 | 4.4 | 1,211 | 36.5 | 1,176 | 48.4 | 2,437 |
| Invitation to sexual touching | ... | ... | 529 | 7.7 | 3 | 0.3 | 243 | 7.3 | 283 | 11.7 | 529 |
| Luring a child via a computer | ... | ... | 359 | 5.2 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 1.7 | 304 | 12.5 | 359 |
| Incest | 51 | 0.2 | 164 | 2.4 | 4 | 0.4 | 63 | 1.9 | 97 | 4.0 | 215 |
| Sexual exploitation | 27 | 0.1 | 105 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.1 | 103 | 4.2 | 132 |
| Voyeurism | 306 | 1.1 | 121 | 1.8 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0.8 | 93 | 3.8 | 427 |
| Corrupting children | ... | ... | 43 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.2 | 26 | 0.8 | 15 | 0.6 | 43 |
| Making sexually explicit material available to children | ... | ... | 8 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.2 | 8 |
| Anal intercourse | 7 | 0.03 | 8 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.2 | 15 |
| Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person | 3 | 0.01 | 1 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.04 | 4 |
| **Assaults** | **194,143** | **707.0** | **34,281** | **498.2** | **880** | **77.8** | **7,295** | **219.6** | **26,106** | **1075.0** | **228,424** |
| Assault (level 3) - aggravated | 3,089 | 11.2 | 298 | 4.3 | 63 | 5.6 | 27 | 0.8 | 208 | 8.6 | 3,387 |
| Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm | 41,317 | 150.5 | 7,155 | 104.0 | 191 | 16.9 | 1,503 | 45.2 | 5,461 | 224.9 | 48,472 |
| Assault (level 1) | 138,812 | 505.5 | 26,418 | 383.9 | 597 | 52.8 | 5,681 | 171.0 | 20,140 | 829.3 | 165,230 |
| Pointing a firearm | 534 | 1.9 | 102 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.1 | 16 | 0.5 | 85 | 3.5 | 636 |
| Unlawfully causing bodily harm | 407 | 1.5 | 70 | 1.0 | 7 | 0.6 | 6 | 0.2 | 57 | 2.3 | 477 |
| Criminal negligence causing bodily harm | 157 | 0.6 | 63 | 0.9 | 15 | 1.3 | 25 | 0.8 | 23 | 0.9 | 220 |
| Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence | 133 | 0.5 | 24 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0.2 | 17 | 0.7 | 157 |
| Discharge firearm with intent | 192 | 0.7 | 29 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.03 | 25 | 1.0 | 221 |
| Trap likely to or causing bodily harm | 5 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Other assaults[2] | 9,497 | 34.6 | 122 | 1.8 | 3 | 0.3 | 29 | 0.9 | 90 | 3.7 | 9,619 |

See notes at the end of the table.

Table A-09
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2012 (continued)

| | Adult victims (18 years and older) | | Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years) | | Children and youth victims by age group | | | | | | Total victims |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Less than 3 years | | 3 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | |
| Type of offence | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number |
| **Deprivation of freedom** | **3,103** | **11.3** | **841** | **12.2** | **71** | **6.3** | **325** | **9.8** | **445** | **18.3** | **3,944** |
| Kidnapping and forcible confinement | 3,103 | 11.3 | 462 | 6.7 | 17 | 1.5 | 85 | 2.6 | 360 | 14.8 | 3,565 |
| Abduction/Removal of child from Canada | ... | ... | 379 | 5.5 | 54 | 4.8 | 240 | 7.2 | 85 | 3.5 | 379 |
| **Other violent offences** | **88,124** | **320.9** | **16,560** | **240.6** | **356** | **31.5** | **1,890** | **56.9** | **14,314** | **589.4** | **104,684** |
| Criminal harassment | 14,059 | 51.2 | 1,869 | 27.2 | 8 | 0.7 | 161 | 4.8 | 1,700 | 70.0 | 15,928 |
| Uttering threats | 43,911 | 159.9 | 7,591 | 110.3 | 281 | 24.8 | 1,326 | 39.9 | 5,984 | 246.4 | 51,502 |
| Indecent or harassing phone calls | 7,925 | 28.9 | 662 | 9.6 | 1 | 0.1 | 39 | 1.2 | 622 | 25.6 | 8,587 |
| Trafficking in persons | 40 | 0.1 | 19 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0.1 | 16 | 0.7 | 59 |
| Other[3] | 22,189 | 80.8 | 6,419 | 93.3 | 66 | 5.8 | 361 | 10.9 | 5,992 | 246.7 | 28,608 |
| **Total** | **297,972** | **1,085.1** | **65,880** | **957.4** | **1,510** | **133.5** | **14,882** | **448.0** | **49,488** | **2,037.8** | **363,852** |

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes assaults against police and other peace officers, as well as other types of assaults such as administering noxious thing.
3. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-10
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and age group, Canada, 2012

| | Victim's age group | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than 1 year | | 1 to 3 years | | 4 to 6 years | | 7 to 11 years | | 12 to 17 years | | Total | |
| Accused-victim relationship | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Parent[1] | 342 | 88 | 1,061 | 79 | 1,575 | 66 | 2,728 | 61 | 5,081 | 55 | 10,787 | 60 |
| Sibling[2] | 26 | 7 | 115 | 9 | 342 | 14 | 783 | 18 | 1,823 | 20 | 3,089 | 17 |
| Extended family[3] | 21 | 5 | 164 | 12 | 481 | 20 | 947 | 21 | 1,902 | 21 | 3,515 | 20 |
| Spouse[4] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 463 | 5 | 463 | 3 |
| **Total** | **389** | **100** | **1,340** | **100** | **2,398** | **100** | **4,458** | **100** | **9,269** | **100** | **17,854** | **100** |

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents. Includes a small number of children victims where the relationship of the accused to the victim was recoded to parent.
2. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
4. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-11
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of the victim and type of offence, Canada, 2012

| Type of offence | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Violations causing death | 19 | 0.6 | 17 | 0.5 | 36 | 0.5 |
| Attempted murder[2] | 10 | 0.3 | 11 | 0.3 | 21 | 0.3 |
| Physical assault[3] | 5,189 | 154.9 | 5,090 | 144.2 | 10,279 | 149.4 |
| Sexual offences[4] | 4,312 | 128.7 | 1,127 | 31.9 | 5,439 | 79.0 |
| Kidnapping/abduction | 190 | 5.7 | 166 | 4.7 | 356 | 5.2 |
| Other violent crimes[5] | 939 | 28.0 | 784 | 22.2 | 1,723 | 25.0 |
| **Total** | **10,659** | **318.1** | **7,195** | **203.8** | **17,854** | **259.5** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
3. Physical assaults includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
4. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
5. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-12
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by province and territory, 2012

| Province and territory | Victims of family violence[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[2] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 351 | 372.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 88 | 305.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 550 | 325.0 |
| New Brunswick | 489 | 353.7 |
| Quebec | 4,651 | 309.5 |
| Ontario | 4,932 | 183.1 |
| Manitoba | 1,087 | 390.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,235 | 506.2 |
| Alberta | 2,168 | 252.5 |
| British Columbia | 1,931 | 229.1 |
| Yukon | 45 | 610.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 120 | 1,073.3 |
| Nunavut | 207 | 1,613.0 |
| **Canada** | **17,854** | **259.5** |

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), extended family and spouses.
2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Note:** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-13
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and sex of victim, Canada, 2012

| Relationship of accused to victim | Female victims | | | Male victims | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | rate[1] | number | percent | rate[1] | number | percent | rate[1] |
| **Total family** | **1,810** | **44** | **67.7** | **1,135** | **24** | **50.7** | **2,945** | **33** | **60.0** |
| Grown child[2] | 734 | 18 | 27.4 | 572 | 12 | 25.6 | 1,306 | 15 | 26.6 |
| Spouse[3] | 584 | 14 | 21.8 | 238 | 5 | 10.6 | 822 | 9 | 16.7 |
| Sibling[4] | 176 | 4 | 6.6 | 117 | 2 | 5.2 | 293 | 3 | 6.0 |
| Extended family[5] | 316 | 8 | 11.8 | 208 | 4 | 9.3 | 524 | 6 | 10.7 |
| **Total friends, acquaintances, other** | **1,395** | **34** | **52.2** | **2,147** | **46** | **96.0** | **3,542** | **40** | **72.1** |
| Casual Acquaintances[6] | 768 | 19 | 28.7 | 1,156 | 25 | 51.7 | 1,924 | 22 | 39.2 |
| Neighbour | 279 | 7 | 10.4 | 428 | 9 | 19.1 | 707 | 8 | 14.4 |
| Business relationship | 154 | 4 | 5.8 | 318 | 7 | 14.2 | 472 | 5 | 9.6 |
| Dating partner[7] | 101 | 2 | 3.8 | 103 | 2 | 4.6 | 204 | 2 | 4.2 |
| Friends[8] | 93 | 2 | 3.5 | 142 | 3 | 6.3 | 235 | 3 | 4.8 |
| Stranger | **898** | **22** | **33.6** | **1,418** | **30** | **63.4** | **2,316** | **26** | **47.2** |
| Unknown | 1 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... |
| **Total violence against seniors** | **4,104** | **100** | **153.5** | **4,705** | **100** | **210.3** | **8,809** | **100** | **179.3** |

... not applicable
1. Rate per 100,000 population.
2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
3. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
5. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
6. Includes criminal relationships and authority figures.
7. Includes girlfriend/boyfriend (current and previous) and other intimate partners.
8. Includes roommates, which was added as a new relationship category.
**Note:** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-14
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2012

| Province and territory | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] | number | rate[1] |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 36 | 81.3 | 25 | 64.3 | 61 | 73.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 7 | 56.6 | 4 | 38.1 | 11 | 48.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 57 | 68.7 | 48 | 69.0 | 105 | 68.8 |
| New Brunswick | 53 | 80.4 | 41 | 73.4 | 94 | 77.2 |
| Quebec | 446 | 64.7 | 285 | 50.8 | 731 | 58.5 |
| Ontario | 569 | 55.3 | 306 | 36.1 | 875 | 46.6 |
| Manitoba | 61 | 68.5 | 41 | 55.7 | 102 | 62.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 69 | 86.7 | 35 | 52.4 | 104 | 71.1 |
| Alberta | 172 | 78.3 | 139 | 73.6 | 311 | 76.2 |
| British Columbia | 291 | 81.0 | 183 | 56.9 | 474 | 69.6 |
| Yukon | 9 | 582.1 | 6 | 340.9 | 15 | 453.7 |
| Northwest Territories | 27 | 2,213.1 | 17 | 1,358.9 | 44 | 1,780.7 |
| Nunavut | 13 | 2,346.6 | 5 | 834.7 | 18 | 1,561.1 |
| **Canada** | **1,810** | **67.7** | **1,135** | **50.7** | **2,945** | **60.0** |

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-15
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2012

| Type of offence | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Violations causing death | 14 | 0.8 | 5 | 0.4 | 19 | 0.6 |
| Attempted murder[1] | 9 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.1 | 10 | 0.3 |
| Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3) | 15 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.5 |
| **Physical assault** | | | | | | |
| Major assault (levels 2 and 3) | 206 | 11 | 193 | 17 | 399 | 14 |
| Common assault (level 1) | 980 | 54 | 567 | 50 | 1,547 | 53 |
| Other assaults[2] | 12 | 0.7 | 5 | 0.4 | 17 | 0.6 |
| Robbery | 16 | 0.9 | 10 | 0.9 | 26 | 0.9 |
| Extortion | 17 | 0.9 | 10 | 0.9 | 27 | 0.9 |
| Criminal harassment | 81 | 4 | 38 | 3 | 119 | 4 |
| Uttering threats | 349 | 19 | 253 | 22 | 602 | 20 |
| Indecent/harassing phone calls | 81 | 4 | 40 | 4 | 121 | 4 |
| Other violent offences[3] | 30 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 43 | 1 |
| **Total** | **1,810** | **100** | **1,135** | **100** | **2,945** | **100** |

1. Attempted murder includes conspire to commit murder.
2. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace or public officer, and other assaults.
3. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson, and other violent violations.

**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-16
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of weapon, Canada, 2012

| Type of weapon | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Threats or no weapon | 437 | 27 | 267 | 25 | 704 | 26 |
| Physical force | 967 | 59 | 568 | 54 | 1,535 | 57 |
| **Weapon** | | | | | | |
| Club or blunt instrument | 42 | 3 | 36 | 3 | 78 | 3 |
| Knife or other piercing instrument | 70 | 4 | 77 | 7 | 147 | 5 |
| Firearm | 19 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 27 | 1 |
| Other weapon[1] | 109 | 7 | 94 | 9 | 203 | 8 |
| Unknown | 166 | ... | 85 | ... | 251 | ... |
| **Total** | **1,810** | **100** | **1,135** | **100** | **2,945** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.

**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-17
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and level of injury, Canada, 2012

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Level of injury** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| No injuries[1] | 1,050 | 61 | 648 | 60 | 1,698 | 61 |
| Minor physical injuries[2] | 619 | 36 | 412 | 38 | 1,031 | 37 |
| Major physical injuries/death[3] | 50 | 3 | 26 | 2 | 76 | 3 |
| Unknown[4] | 91 | ... | 49 | ... | 140 | ... |
| **Total** | **1,810** | **100** | **1,135** | **100** | **2,945** | **100** |

... not applicable
1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.
2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
3. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility or injuries that result in death.
4. Unknown injuries have been excluded in the calculation of percentages.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown injuries. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table A-18
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2012

| | Female victims | | Male victims | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of clearance status** | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Not cleared[1] | 277 | 15 | 171 | 15 | 448 | 15 |
| Cleared by charge | 1,022 | 56 | 597 | 53 | 1,619 | 55 |
| Cleared otherwise | 511 | 28 | 367 | 32 | 878 | 30 |
| Complainant requests charges not be laid | 279 | 15 | 244 | 21 | 523 | 18 |
| Reasons beyond the control of department | 57 | 3 | 35 | 3 | 92 | 3 |
| Departmental discretion | 136 | 8 | 74 | 7 | 210 | 7 |
| Other[2] | 39 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 53 | 2 |
| **Total** | **1,810** | **100** | **1,135** | **100** | **2,945** | **100** |

1. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident or incidents where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident.
2. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
**Note:** Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), parents (biological, adopted, step, foster), children (biological, adopted, step, foster), siblings (biological, adopted, step, half, foster), and extended family. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.